THE

VOICE OF GOD:

OR

AN ACCOUNT

OF THE

UNPARALLELED FIRES,

HURRICANES, FLOODS AND EARTHQUAKES,

COMMENCING WITH 1845.

ALSO,

SOME ACCOUNT OF PESTILENCE, FAMINE,

AND

INCREASE OF CRIME.

COMPILED BY

THOMAS M. PREBLE.

AUTHOR OF "TWO HUNDRED STORIES FOR CHILDREN," ETC.

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Crimes of all descriptions are on the increase, especially in those of the blackest die—the increase being much greater than the proportionate increase of population! To what circumstances must these things be ascribed?—N. Y. HERALD.

TO THE READER.

The following will be found a mere summary, a full account of the *fires alone*, for the last two years, being sufficient to fill volumes. Collected, as it has been, from the various journals of the day, it cannot be expected that in all cases the accounts will be perfectly correct, as in some instances the losses may be estimated too high, and in others too low, but in the aggregate not far from correct.

No fires are mentioned in this summary, but those where the loss was estimated as high as $25,000; the innumerable fires where the loss was estimated less, having been omitted, except in a few instances.

It is possible that some important accounts are left out, by being overlooked; but no pains has been spared in order to have the work as perfect as possible, under the circumstances.

FIRES IN 1845.

WETUMPKA, Alab., Jan. 31.—The *Gospel Messenger* of Jan. 31, published at Wetumpka, contains an account of the destruction of two-thirds of the business part of that town by fire. Estimated damage, $200,000.

BRIDGETOWN, W. I., Feb. 3.—The *Barbadoes Globe* of the 6th February, was filled with an account of a most disastrous fire, which occurred at Bridgetown on the night of the 3d and morning of the 4th. That papaper says: "A fourth of the stone-built portion of our city is in ruins! Hundreds of the inhabitants are without houses, clothes, or furniture, and thousands upon thousands of pounds sterling worth of property has been destroyed in various ways, or totally consumed by the devouring element. About 200 houses are burned, the loss amounting to about *two millions of dollars!* All business in the city is quite suspended, the stores closed, and every one's thoughts engrossed by the late overwhelming calamity. The master and passengers of the Maid of Erin, which arrived here next morning from Granada, describe the appearance of the conflagration, as seen by them fifty miles at sea, to have exhibited a spectacle of fearful sublimity; but to us on shore it was one of unmitigated horror and awe, as we could only view it in detail, and amid the distractions of wailing and lamentations—the crackling and roaring of the flames; the falling in of the roofs—the cries of the working parties to each other—the occasional deafening explosions of gunpowder, as if the houses were blown down by the artillery—and worst and most revolting of all, the hellish shoutings and hurrahings of the dregs of the populace, rejoicing at the progress of the work of destruction and desolation."

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 4.—A destructive fire occurred in this city on the 4th of February, consuming property insured for about $40,000.

NEW YORK, Feb. 5.—A fire destroyed property to the amount of $42,000.

BELLEVILLE, N. J., Feb. 9.—There was a very destructive fire at this place; the loss of property estimated at $60,000.

SAVANNAH, March 2.—By a fire at this place, there was destroyed $30,000 worth of property, and one life lost.

WASHINGTON, March 5.—The National Theatre taking fire in the painting room during the performances, was entirely destroyed, together with about twelve other buildings. The total loss estimated at about $50,000.

WEST FARMS, N. Y., March 7.—A fire destroyed property to the amount of $25,000.

DEDHAM, MASS., March 10.—By this fire a loss of $25,000 was sustained.

MILWAUKIE, April 6.—Over thirty buildings burned; loss $70,000.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., April 11.—A tremendous conflagration occured in Pittsburgh, April 11th: destroying from 1000 to 1200 houses. Loss estimated at *ten millions of dollars.* The *Pittsburgh Post* says:—

"It is a painful duty to record one of the most terrible fires that ever devastated any city on this continent. A great portion of our large and populous town is in ruins! More houses have been destroyed by this single and horrible conflagration, than have been consumed by all the fires that have occurred in the city before. We can give no adequate idea of the distress which pervades our community. The progress of the flames was so fearfully rapid, that many persons had not time to remove their goods; others, again, had got their property into the street, when the flames seized it there; before it could be removed to a place of safety. Many

escaped with nothing but the apparel they had upon their persons. At dark, in every direction, were to be seen families sitting without shelter, not knowing where they would lay their heads, or obtain a morsel of food. The loss of life cannot be learned in the awful confusion which prevails. Two lives certainly lost—we have a rumor of many. At least, 4,000 persons are out of house and home. It is estimated that the burnt district contains 60 acres." The *Age* estimates the loss at about *twelve millions of dollars*—later accounts make the loss much less.

Dismal Swamp, Portsmouth, Va., April, 14.—" An alarming and destructive fire has been raging for some two weeks in the Dismal Swamp lands; that is now progressing with unparalleled fury. That it may be understood abroad, we remark that for some six weeks past we have had no rain in this section of country, and consequently, the spongy fibrous soil of the Swamp has become dry, and ignites as readily as tinder, and burns with the fervency of peat. The fire descends a great depth in the soil, and completely covers the whole surface for miles and miles with a living fire, which consumes every thing. Vast quantities of timber, shingles, staves, fences, &c., have already been destroyed, and our neighbors on the edge of the Swamp are in great dismay for fear of their dwellings and plantations. It is worse than a prairie fire, because the subtle element, penetrates under the earth, and rises at different points.

While we write, the atmosphere is filled with the scent and smoke of the consuming Juniper trees, and the horizon is canopied and curtained with the black, dense clouds of smoke, save ever and anon, where it catches some extensive timber and shingle depot, when the forked and fiery volume rises above the mass, and illumes the blackness, while night shows that volume of red flame and heat, which reaches high up in the heavens, that almost makes one imagine that the time so firmly relied on and so ardently prayed for by the Millerites, has indeed come. The fire is now within 5

or 6 miles of this town, and a curious feeling is exhibited by nearly all our citizens; a feverish anxiety, and a continual inquiry of how the fire progresses, meets us at every point. Numbers are moving towards the scene of devastation, and fearful rumors are ever and anon started that such and such plantations have been destroyed."—*Portsmouth Chronicle.*

ROXBURY, Mass., April 23.—A fire occurred at Roxbury, Mass., destroying property to the amount of $40,000. During the fire a woman with an infant in her arms, jumped out of the third story of a building. The child was killed, and the woman badly hurt. Two other children missing. The fire spread with such awful rapidity, that several of the inmates of houses were badly burnt. Some 40 families rendered houseless, and deprived of almost every thing but the clothes they had on.—*Boston Atlas.*

NEW YORK CITY, May 11.—Loss estimated at $60,000.

BOSTON, Mass., May 11.—A destructive incendiary fire occurred in Boston, on Sunday, May 11th, destroying in all thirty dwelling houses and three carpenter's shops. About eighty poor families lost their furniture and homes by this calamity. The fire is said to have been communicated to a carpenter shop by a small boy.

QUEBEC, U. C., May 28.—A most disastrous fire occurred at Quebec, May 28th, which laid a large part of the city in ruins. It held uninterrupted sway from eleven in the morning until midnight, when its career was arrested, nearly one mile from the place of its outbreak! At the broadest point, the breadth of the burnt district was about one third of a mile.

Between 1,500 and 2,000 houses were consumed; and 12,000 persons (one third of the population) rendered houseless. Most of the people lost their all, the rapid advance, and sudden capricious directions taken by the flames not only rendered it impossible to save any portion of the property in the dwellings, but

in a vast number of instances barely allowed the inmates sufficient time to escape.

The scene of the conflagration was described by eye witnesses as having been perfectly awful; men, woman and children, absolutely bewildered by the almost instantaneous combustion of their dwellings, and in their efforts to escape from the flames, as often rushing into the midst of danger and destruction as obtaining safety.

One painful incident was the destruction of the Hospital, to which, as being considered entirely out of the reach of the conflagration, numbers of sick persons of all classes were carried, when, melancholy to relate, the building became ignited by the flakes of fire carried from a distance by the wind—and the unfortunate inmates, unable to help themselves, perished. The loss was variously estimated, from $1,600,000 to $3,000,00. —*N. Y. Evangelist.*

Later accounts say that there were 18 schooners burnt in the harbor; and that 100 persons perished in the conflagration of the city. Total loss of property, $5,000,000.—*Evening Journal.*

ZANESVILLE, Ohio, May 28.—On Tuesday May 28th, a bridge, a valuable mill and a factory were destroyed. The fire was kindled by an incendiary, in the east part of the bridge, crossing the Muskingum. The *Zanesville Recorder* gives the loss at $34,000.

MANTANZAS, Cuba, June 27.—The *Mantanzas Aurora* of June 27th, contains the details of a dreadful fire which occurred in that city on the day previous.

The fire burst out in the richest part of the city, and destroyed two entire squares and a third part of two more. Sixty houses were consumed, and the loss exceeds $800,000. The streets were blocked up with men, women and children, flying for their lives from the flames. Many persons were injured, and it is rumored that several lives were lost. The progress of the flames was finally arrested by battering down the houses exposed, with cannon. The fire bells rang for six hours.

The *Havana Diario* estimates the loss at $2,000,000.

QUEBEC, U. C., June 30th.—The *Quebec Gazette* of June 30th says: It pleased the Almighty in his wisdom, to devastate our city on the 28th of last month, and it has again seen fit to Him to visit us with a scourge. On Saturday evening last, about eleven o'clock, a fire broke out which spread with unrelenting fury until nine o'clock the next morning, and which in its course consumed about 1300 dwellings, and at the least, rendered homeless 6000 persons! This in addition to the last fire, be it understood. Human aid was of no avail. Water could not be obtained to any extent, and even when had, was of little avail, owing to the rapid progress of the destructive element.

About thirty streets were laid in ruins, from this fire alone.

The flames spread as during the last fire, from street to street, by the burning flakes scattered by the gale then blowing; for, as on the 28th, there had been a previous continuance of dry weather, and at the time of the break of the fire, there raged a violent wind from the N. E.

The scene of danger was one truly fearful, as on the 28th, apathy prevailed, not from a want of the feeling which compels exertion, but from a mental paralysis.

The loss of life has not, on this occasion, thanks be to God, been very great. One man was killed by the blasting of a house. Two others have been reduced to a shapeless mass of cinders. Four or five persons died this day; two children, who were removed while sick with fever; and two grown persons, who, it is said, died from the effects of fright.

The fire was stayed several times by the blowing up of houses.

One fire more under like circumstances, would blot Quebec from the list of cities.

I can safely say that not a family in Quebec has escaped a share of these two dire calamities.

The scene of desolation, distress and affliction, and the extent of the calamity are nearly as great as after the former conflagration; the value of the property destroyed, greater.

West Troy, N. Y., July 3.—Twelve buildings were destroyed by fire in West Troy, July 3d. Loss not given in one account, but in another $55,000.

Rochester, N. Y., July 16.—Some 25 buildings were destroyed.

Mobile, Ala., July—Loss $27,000.

New York City, July 19.—The *N. Y. Commercial Advertiser*, of July 19th says: "New York has fallen again, we regret to say, into the line of great conflagrations. Within a few years, the catalogue of terrific burnings, on this side of the Atlantic, has included New York, Philadelphia, Mobile, Wilmington, Pittsburgh and Quebec; and now New York is added to the list for the second time. An immense amount of property has been destroyed, and more to be deplored, a lamentable loss of life, has added to the terrors of the occasion."

The *N. Y. Express* says: "We record with pain and anguish, the details of the terrible calamity that has overtaken one of the richest and most commercial parts in our city. The harbor for ten miles below the city, was covered with floating fragments. Several pieces of burnt goods were picked up on Staten Island. The city presented a vast sublime sight from the bay. Spectators beheld in silence. It seemed as if all the city was in flames. The sheet of fire and smoke ascended to the clouds."

The *Journal of Commerce* says, that between 250 and 300 buildings were destroyed. The extent of this calamity has exceeded even the excited apprehensions of those who witnessed its whole progress from the commencement.

The *Express* gives the following account of the explosion: "The first explosion, which was comparatively moderate, filled the room of the writer of this paragraph with a light more intense than at noon-day; and upon looking out upon Broadway, a scene met our gaze that can never be forgotten. Hardly had he reached the window when the second and grand explosion took

place. The buildings, as far as the eye could reach, appeared one mass of flame, while the buildings on the west side of Broadway, from the Mansion House to the Astor, were so brilliant that the eye could hardly rest upon them. The spire of Trinity church looked like a pillar of fire, and the moon, which a moment before we saw just above the roof paled under this vivid light, was invisible. The sky, over the region of the fire, and along the range of Nassau street, was filled with a mass of flame from the burning gas, alcohol, and camphine, let loose at the explosion. High in the air as the eye could range appeared an immense quantity of fire, that had the appearance of serpents darting spirally upwards, like the small rockets of a fire work. These tongues of flame, too, shot out in all directions from the centre, making together the whole look like a mountain of fire, which created in the air a noise like that caused by a flash of electricity in a thunder storm. The panic caused by such an explosion who can describe.

The street, from Waverly House to our office in Broadway, presented a thick multitude of men, running as if for their lives, shrieking as though they were in the agonies of death. Those who could keep their feet were fortunate indeed; for the masses behind, in their terror, over-ran many who fell, regardless of anything but their own safety.

Through the other streets, a like scene was exhibited, but as the others were narrow the confusion was greater. The firemen and spectators left those parts only to receive in another place the showers of bricks and other missiles forced off by the explosion. So awful was the shock, that the thick plate glass in nearly all the buildings in Wall street, was broken in fragments and strewed over the pavements; in many instances the substantial window sashes themselves being broken in. The cries of frightened people, the fall of missiles on the roofs of buildings, the crash of glass upon the pavement, added to the tumbling of buildings from the force of the explosion, and the vivid glare of the flames, as-

sailed the numerous multitudes now out to see the fire, and gave the impression that a great convulsion of nature had taken place.

The Bay House, Clinton Hotel, and all the houses on Staten Island, a distance, some of them, of eleven miles, were made to tremble by the explosion in Broad street. The report was so loud, that it was thought to be an earthquake. The terror and alarm was beyond description. Mr. Moore, of the Croton Hotel, hearing of the distress of families rendered houseless, loaded a cart with provisions, and sent the grateful and timely relief to hundreds, who, exhausted and suffering, would but for this, have suffered from hunger, perhaps starvation."

The *Journal of Commerce* estimated the loss by this terrible fire at $7,000,000!

DEAD RIVER, Me.—The Norridgewock *People's Press* noticed a destructive fire that raged in the woods at Dead River, Me., causing great destruction of property. Some 18 buildings were laid in ruins; a large number of camps, with the supplies of lumbermen; and entirely burning over the Copeland township, the Moxy township, and about ten thousand acres on Cold stream.

Probable loss not far from $500,000.

BALTIMORE, July 29.—A fire occurred at the Franklin Works, about seven miles from Baltimore. Loss estimated at $30,000.

NEWPORT, Aug. 3.—By this terrible fire, the Ocean House was destroyed, and two men perished in the ruins. The loss of property was estimated at $61,000.—*Tribune.*

ST. JOHNS, N. B., July 29.—A very destructive fire took place at St. Johns, on the evening of the 29th of July, by which upwards of forty houses, and property estimated at $300,000 were destroyed. The correspondent of the *Daily Advertiser* says, that "all the printing offices in the place were thrown into confusion by this fire, either being burnt out or removed."

DARK HARBOR, L. I., Aug. 1.—The iron steam-ship "Bangor" was totally destroyed by fire the 1st of Aug. near Castine. She made Dark Harbor, L. I., where she was entirely consumed, with her cargo. Loss $50,000.

NEW YORK CITY, Aug. 16.—Loss $50,000.

SMYRNA, Turkey.—In this month (Aug.) the news arrived of the great fire in Smyrna, on the 3d ult. The following details are taken from a private letter, dated Smyrna, July 9, 1845:—

"Smyrna is again in misery and ruin; a larger and more awful conflagration than the last, commenced on the evening of the 3d instant, continued violently for twelve or fifteen hours, and upwards of two days in burning embers and side fires. Even up to yesterday, here and there magazines and stone buildings were burning—some from being opened too soon, when the heated air burst into a flame. It began in the centre of the town, aided by a furious north wind, destroying every thing right and left for a circumference, of at least a mile and a half. At one time the fire so raged that had not a change of wind taken place, it was thought all Smyrna must have been in ruins. Mr. Jackson says it is the worst fire he has ever seen, and larger than that of 1797."—*Amer. Citizen.*

Another account, in giving a statement of the probable loss of property, says that "over 5000 houses have been destroyed. And it is estimated that the loss has been from FIFTEEN TO TWENTY-FIVE MILLIONS of dollars!"

"CANTON, China.—The following is an account of a fire that occerred in Canton, on Sunday, May 25th. It is contained in a letter in the *Journal of Commerce*, from a lady, then residing in the interior of the city of Canton:

CANTON, June 2, 1845.—On Sunday the 25th of May, there was a most distressing fire in the city of Canton, within the walls. In a small open square, a mat-house had been erected for a theatrical entertainment, and some 5 or 6000 had assembled to witness

the performances. Suddenly in the midst of the play a fire broke out immediately under the seats occupied by the women. Of course there was a rush for the streets, but there were but two narrow door-ways out. One of those soon closed by the falling of a part of the building, so that it was almost impossible to escape. The bodies of 1400 have been found who died from suffocation or the flames, or from being trampled upon in the crowd. Many were awfully burnt who still live.

Thirty houses were destroyed. The number of deaths is computed at 2000. There were from fifty to sixty of the players burned to death, or killed by the falling of the walls. Some idea may be formed of the awful character of the catastrophe, when it is stated, that a large number of the bodies were so mutilated, as not to be recognized by their friends; and that serious consequences were apprehended from the exposure of the bodies in such a climate at this season. The authorities have purchased 460 coffins, for the interment of the unclaimed bodies."—*Daily Dem.*

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Sept., 7.—A correspondent of the *N. Y. Tribune*, writing from Philadelphia, gives the followinng account of a destructive fire that occurred in that city, on the 7th of September: "At 1 o'clock this morning a serious fire broke out in the Steam Sugar Refinery, and the whole building, together with two or three others, was destroyed. Loss $25,000.

During the above fire, one of a more calamitous character occurred in Broad street. It commenced in the rear of Clark's Hotel, which spread with great rapidity, until it had destroyed property to the amount of about $500,000. Ten fine horses were burned to death. But the most serious casuality was the loss of life and limb by several active members of the Fire Department. One man was taken out of the ruins, dead. Another so seriously injured, that his life was despaired of; several others were badly hurt. By the

fall of the wall in Broad street, two persons were buried in the ruins. The alarm bell is now ringing; we are in a state of great excitement. The firemen are now fighting desperately."

Brooklyn, N. Y., Sept. 10.—The total loss by the fire in Brooklyn, on Sunday morning, September 10, reported in the *True Sun*, was estimated at about $30,000. Nine dwelling houses were destroyed, and a large quantity of furniture.

Oregon.—The *Evening Journal* of September 12, remarks that in a letter from Oregon, published in the *N. Y. Com. Adv.*, the writer says: "We stopped last night, the 27th, near the foot of a mountain, I think nearly four thousand feet high. On this mountain, from its base to its summit, were thousands of trees, blazing like torches! The most splendid exhibition of fire works I ever saw, or expect to see, till the day of doom! A great tract of country, perhaps 40 miles in extent, on the river, is now on fire, and extends some ten miles back from the river. Smoke, blazing fire, and the thundering of falling trees, all unite to make the scene new, splendid and grand."

Boston, Mass., Sept. 13.—*Ninety thousand dollars* worth of property was destroyed by fire at South Boston on Saturday morning, September 13th. The work of destruction commenced near 2 o'clock, and the flames raged till about 6 o'clock A. M.

Morton-Hampstead, Devonshire.—A terrific conflagration occurred at the market-town of Morton-Hampstead, levelling in its progress no less than fifty dwelling houses, besides consuming a vast amount of property.

Montreal, L. C., Oct. 4.—On Saturday morning, Oct. 4th, a destructive fire broke out in Griffintown. One hundred houses had been destroyed; and the military, at the latest advices, were on the point of blowing up three houses to stop the progress of the conflagration.

Randal's Island, N. Y., Oct. 15.—Destroyed property to the amount of $60,000.

St. Catherines, Canada W., Oct. 19.—Destroyed property to the amount of $30,000.

Winchester, Va., Oct. 21.—Destroyed property to the amount of $60,000.

Danvers, Mass., Oct. 25.—An extensive tannery in Danvers, Mass., was destroyed by fire on Saturday, Oct. 25th. About $50,000 was insured on the property.

Taunton, Mass., Oct. 27—A fire destroyed $50,000 worth of property.

Lowell, Mass., Oct. 24.—The total loss by this fire was about $25,000.

Wilmington, N. C., Nov. 4.—The *Wilmington Journal* of Nov. 4th, contains the following particulars of a great conflagration in that thriving city.

"We hasten to give a brief account of the awful fire with which our town was visited this morning. It originated in precisely the same spot where it was set on fire some weeks ago, and there remains not a doubt on the minds of the community, but that the conflagration of this morning was also the fiendish work of the midnight felon. The total loss will not fall far short of $175,000.

New York, Oct. 12.—A destructive fire occurred in the city of New York, attended with another dreadful explosion, by which several firemen were severely injured. The loss was estimated in the *Tribune* at $60,000.

Sag Harbor, Nov. 13.—Says the *Journal of Commerce:* "Nearly all the business portion of Sag Harbor was destroyed by fire which broke out in Oakley's Hotel, about ten o'clock on Thursday evening, Nov. 13. Upwards of one hundred houses on both sides of Main street, and in the rear thereof, were consumed. The loss will probably exceed $100,000. Nothing is known of the quantity of merchandize consumed, though it is apprehended that the value is great."

Says another account: If none has been saved from

the destroyed buildings beyond what is now known, the loss is probably $250,000.

RAHWAY, N. J.—Says a correspondent of the *Tribune*, "I hasten to inform you that we had another fire last night in Rahway township, by which the large and extensive property known as Philip Trusler's Calico Print Works, was nearly consumed.

The alarm was given about half past 1 o'clock, A. M., in our village, a bright and lurid light illuminating the whole of Upper Rahway. The buildings in which the manufacturing was carried on, (nine in number) were all consumed, together with all the valuable machinery. Less not known; insurance $25,000.

"There is something strange in these frequent fires in our community, this being the third factory that has been burned in our place within a few months. This is the second time the Calico Print Works have been burnt. The factory was idle, and had been some time previous to the fire. The German Dying and Scouring establishment in Lower Rahway has also been burnt within a few months, being also the second time. Hale's Print Works have also been burnt during the past year.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Nov. 25.—By this fire a loss was sustained, estimated at $30,000.

PETERSBURG, Va., Dec. 1.—This fire destroyed about thirty houses; loss $30,000.

ROXBURY, Mass., Dec. 8.—The loss by this fire was estimated at $55,000.

BRIDGEPORT, Ct., Dec. 10.—A great destruction of property occurred here; some thirty buildings burnt; loss $100,000.—*Argus.*

COLUMBUS, Ga., Dec. 21.—Another great fire occurred at this place on the 21st of December. An extra from the *Muscogee Democrat* gives an estimate of the loss sustained at about $200,000.

BRACKETT'S BRIDGE, Dec. 29.—The extensive Leather Factory at Brackett's Bridge was consumed with all its contents on the 29th Dec.; loss $40,000.

FIRES IN 1846.

ROME, N. Y., Jan. 6.—This fire spread with dreadful rapidity till about thirty buildings were destroyed; loss in property, $30,000. One life lost.—*Roman Citizen.*

CONCORD, N. H., Jan. 6.—The extensive buildings at the Depot of the Concord Rail Road Company, with their contents, was mostly consumed. Loss valued at $56,000.—*Argus.*

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 17.—The estimated loss by this fire was about $125,000.—*Journal of Commerce.*

MOUNT MORRIS, Jan. 22.—Loss $26,000.

VERGENNES, Vt., Jan. 20.—In this destructive fire, which occurred on the 20th of January, between forty and fifty buildings were consumed. One man had packed in a trunk for Boston, the large sum of 50,000 or 60,000 dollars, which was all lost; the fire being so rapid that he had just time to escape with his life.—*Argus.*

WOONSOCKET, R. I., Jan. 22.—This fire, which occurred on the 22d of January, consumed property valued at $30,000.

JAMES RIVER, Va., Jan. 18.—The ship Lotus was destroyed by fire at this place on the 18th of Jan. Cargo valued at $30,000.—*Argus.*

STERLING, Ct., Feb. 7.—The Moosup Mill was destroyed by fire, Feb. 7th. Loss $25,000.

CLAPPSVILLE, Mass., Feb. 10.—The Woolen factory at this place was totally destroyed Feb. 10th. Insured for $35,000.

Boston, Feb. 11.—A most determined attempt was made to fire the city of Boston on Wednesday night. The *Journal* of Feb. 11th says:

"There were in all about sixteen alarms, about *fourteen* of which were from incendiary attempts to fire stables.

The amount of property destroyed was quite small, considering the large number of attempts to set fire to the city."

Onsk, Russia.—A fire recently broke out near Onsk, which extended over a distance of fifty French leagues, swallowing up an enormous amount of property.—There were consumed 25 peasants, 665 horses, 915 head of cattle, 11 villages, 13 mills, 1850 barns, 17,800 ricks of hay, and an immense quantity of fuel.—*A. Herald, Feb.* 18th.

Troy, Feb. 19.—A fire in this city on the 19th of February, destroyed property to the amount of $30,000.

Savannah, March 1.—In this fire the loss was estimated at $61,500.

Memphis, Ten., March 2.—Half a square of buildings was destroyed. Loss about $40,000.

Miami Canal, March 24.—The Malleable Iron Works were destroyed by fire March 24th. Loss $80,000 or $100,000. No less than 240 workmen were thrown out of employment.—*N. Y. Jour. of Com.*

Philippolis, Turkey.—A conflagration broke out in Phillippolis, on the western confines of Rumilia, (Turkey) which destroyed 2500 houses.—*A. Herald, April,* 1846.

New London, Con., April 22.—A Rolling mill, says the *New London Star*, was consumed by fire, April 22d, destroying property to the amount of from $100,000 to $200,000.

New York, April 26.—A fire destroyed property to the amount of $50,000.

GRAND BAY, U. C. May 4.—Says the *Albany Argus*, "A serious misfortune has befallen the new settlement of Grand Bay, on Saguenay. It seems that the settlers in that vicinity were clearing their lands and burning the bush. The weather had been very dry and on the 4th of May the wind coming on to blow furiously, the flames were carried along the settlement, destroying houses, barns, cattle, the seed grain, &c. and reaching the village at the mouth of the river Chez Marse, destroying the whole there — the church and the two mills at the mouth of the srteam, and continuing a mile farther, round the Bay to the Grand Bay village, destroying all there, except the church and Wm. Price and Co's stores and houses, and a few houses south of them, *leaving about* 2000 *souls, men women and children without houses or the means of sowing their lands.*"

Farther.—The fire in the forests near Quebec has been most destructive in its course. Two houses at Lake St. Charles, and more than 20 in the township of Stoneham have been destroyed; but the most serious destruction was at Grand Bay and the neighborhood of Checontimi; nearly the whole of the former village being in ashes! A meeting was called at Quebec, to take measures for the relief of the sufferers."

MORRISTOWN, N. J., May 5.—Says the *N. Y. Herald*, "We are pained to hear that the splendid hotel at Morristown, known as the New Jersey Hotel, was burned last night, May 5th. This hotel was one of the most splendid establishments in the United States. Loss about $100,000."

SOUTH HADLEY, MASS., May 6.—The extensive paper manufacturing establishments were destroyed by fire on the 6th of May. Upwards of 170 operatives were thrown out of employment. Loss $75,000.—*Northampton Gazette.*

WARREN, OHIO, June 2.—The *Warren Chronicle*, Extra, of June 2d, gives the particulars of a fire which

destroyed a large part of the flourishing village of Warren, on the night of the 1st. One man perished in the flames. The amount of loss is estimated at about $135,000.

Saratoga Springs, N. Y., June 8—Destroyed property to the amount of $30,000.

St. Johns, N. B., June 12.—The *St. John's News* of June 16th says: "This fire commenced on the 12th of June at 8 o'clock in the morning, and raged until 7 o'clock in the evening. Five or six thousand persons had to pass that dreadful night in the open air! The churches and other public buildings, which escaped the devouring element, were hastily fitted up to shelter those who had been rendered houseless. The only mercantile establishment in St. Johns, left standing, was Messrs. Newman & Co. All the rest were destroyed! At the least calculation, two-thirds of St. Johns has been consumed; and the loss of property by this visitation, is estimated at a *million sterling!* Two streets each a mile long, and a number of detached buildings, have been totally destroyed, while 12,000 persons have been rendered houseless."

Later accounts say that 2,000 buildings were destroyed; and that while the fire was raging, "large numbers of the laboring class looked on with perfect indifference, and many of them did nothing but plunder."

Quebec, U. C., June 15.—The *Montreal Herald* of June 15th contains the following:—

It has again pleased the Almighty to afflict our chastened city.

Last night at 10 o'clock a fire broke out in the Theatre Royal, at the close of Mr. Harrison's exhibition of his Chemical Dioramas. From the information we have been able to glean, a camphene lamp was overset from some cause or other, and the stage at once became enveloped in flames.

The house had been densely crowded, but some fortunately left before the accident.

A rush was at once made to the staircase leading from the boxes, by those who, in the excitement of the moment, forgot the other passages of egress.

In an incredible short space of time the whole of the interior of the building was enveloped in one sheet of flame.

The writer of this article was one of the earliest on the spot, and present at the closing moments of the hopeless beings who perished from their over exertions to escape.

One foot was interposed between the hapless crowd and eternity! and on that space we, with five or six others stood, the fierce flames playing around us, and the dense smoke repelling all efforts to extricate. As far back as we could see, there was a sea of heads, of writhing bodies, and out-stretched arms. *Noise, there was none: but a few moans escaped the doomed.* One poor creature at our feet offered his entire worldly wealth for his rescue; the agonizing expression of the faces before us can never be effaced from our memory.

The flames were above and around us—but human aid was of no avail. In five minutes from the time of which we make mention, the mass of human beings who had but a short interval previous been in the enjoyment of a full and active life, were exposed to our view a mass of calcined bones!

Up to this hour, *forty-six bodies have been recovered from the ruins!* Most of them have been recognized; a greater loss of life than in the two dread conflagrations of last summer.

Sad wailing pervades the city. Scarcely a street can be traversed in which the closed shutter or the hanging crape do not betoken a sudden bereavement. Fathers, sisters, children, of both sexes, indulge in the deepest lamentation. Woe has fallen upon many, for those who were thus suddenly and awfully summoned into the presence of their Creator.

SHILOCA, Oka.—Letters from St. Petersburgh of the 23d of April (5th May) confirm the accounts from Lubeck, of the destruction of a large quantity of

wheat and flour by fire. These letters state that the misfortune took place at Shiloca, a village on the Oka, near Monschansk, and that the quantity destroyed was 200,000 chetwerts.—*A. Herald, June 24th.*

St. Johns, N. B., June 27.—Another fire occurred at this place on the 27th of June, says the *St. Johns Courier*, by which a loss was sustained of about $40,000.

New York, July 11.—Another fire here; loss estimated at $35,000.

Nantucket, July 13.—The *Nantucket Warder* of Tuesday, July 14th, records one of the most calamitous fires that ever occurred at that place.

"We have had an awful night. The fire is still raging, and God knows when it will end. At 11 o'clock last evening our inhabitants were aroused with the appalling cry of fire, and it was soon discovered that the store occupied by E. G. Kelley was in flames. The flames spread with such rapidity as to baffle every exertion to repress them. The expedient of blowing up houses was resorted to as the only means to arrest the conflagration, but it would seem with little success. More than twenty buildings are thus destroyed, and indeed many more would have been demolished, but that all the powder in the place was consumed. The town presents a scene of devastation that language cannot describe. It is estimated that about $1,000,000 worth of property was destroyed: it is very remarkable that no lives were lost; and but two or three persons were injured."

Another account of the fire, reported for the *Com. Advertiser* says:—

"I hasten to send you a brief account of a fearful fire, which is now progressing with alarming, though diminished rapidity. It spread east and west in Main street: crossed the street, spread to the north, and having already consumed scores of houses, burns on in that direction, with no prospect of stopping, until it reaches the water. The entire business portion of the town is in ashes! All our taverns, the Atheneum, the

Manufacturer's Bank, the Episcopal Church, Washington Hall, are all gone. For half a mile, all is desolation. The scene is dreadful beyond conception."

Later accounts say that between 300 and 400 buildings were destroyed; and the loss from $900,000, to a *million of dollars.*

MILWAUKIE, Wisconsin, July 18.—Destroyed property to the amount of $30,000.

FAYETTEVILLE, N. C., July 22.—This fire occurred on the 22d of July, just 13 months and 9 days since the last great fire. Some 25 or 30 stores and warehouses were consumed.—*Fayetteville North Carolinian.*

LAPRAIRIE, L. C., Aug. 7.—The *Montreal Courier*, of Friday, August 7th, says that only fifty houses are left standing; and that 130 houses in the old town and 11 in the new were burnt; the destruction of property amounting to £50,000. A great number of cattle were destroyed.

What little was saved was owing to the exertions of the Montreal firemen, who, starting at 10 o'clock, were carried by steamboat to Longueuil, dragged their engines about two miles before getting horses, which were sent from Laprairie, and reached the scene of the conflagration at 2 A. M. The inhabitants of Lapriarie are said to have exhibited a singular degree of apathy, refusing to man the brakes of the engine, until compelled by force, by the officers and soldiers of the 46th regiment.

[SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION.—"This summer the banks of the Cam exhibited an unusual multitude of those singular phenomena—cases of spontaneous ignition and combustion in growing willows. About a week ago we observed in one instance, at a point of the river not far from Granchester, the process rapidly going on. It was really astonishing to look upon a fine willow, in the full vigor of robust vegetable health, pouring forth clouds of smoke from its half-burned stem, and doomed speedily to expire—itself its own funeral pile. How

explain this? How account for the fact that this tree, yet hale and green, covered with a rich mass of foliage and flourishing "like a green bay tree" on the river bank —should suddenly burst forth into ignition, burn like tinder to its very core, and to-morrow be prostrate!— *Cambridge Adv., Aug.* '46.]

ALBANY, N. Y., Sept. 9.—Our city was visited last night with the most destructive fire that has occurred since the extensive one of 1838. It broke out about half past 9 P. M. in the old and well known Brewery establishment of R. Boyd & Co. Adjoining the Brewery was the Malt-house, the two making a building of some two hundred or more feet front on Franklin and Arch streets. The flames spread with almost inconceivable rapidity over the whole establishment. The Brewery and Malt-house were entirely consumed; and here, at one time, it was thought the flames would be stopped. But, unfortunately, the north end being in close proximity to the rear buildings of the Mineral Spring Garden, the flames caught therein, and then spread as if running over dry tinder, in a few minutes sweeping the Garden of its shrubbery, refreshment rooms, &c., as clean as the paved street. The fire then extended through to the row of dwelling houses on Green street, destroying all except the corner buildings on Ferry and Arch streets.

By this calamity a score of poor families were turned into the street with scarce a moment's warning.

Entire loss about $35,000.—*Albany Journal, Sept.* 9.

NEW YORK, Sept. 18.—Niblo's Garden and other buildings burnt. Loss, $45,000.

NEW YORK, Oct. 2.—We learn from the *N. Y. Evangelist*, of Oct. 2d, that there were several incendiary fires in that city the night previous. Quite a number of stables, carpenter's shops and dwellings, in various parts of the city were set on fire and destroyed; together with several horses.

Another paper gave the loss at $55,000.

COLUMBUS, Ga., Oct. 9.—On the 9th of October, says the writer, a fire broke out which laid a large portion of the city in ashes.

"A rolling sea of fire swept over the city from the market-house, obliquely, to the boat landing, swallowing up hotels, shops, stores, goods, residences, furniture, large and small fortunes, all in six hours. Every thing was dry as tinder, and a breeze of wind blowing at the time, sent the flames bellowing and roaring from square to square with hurricane speed and fury. All human efforts were powerless to arrest it, *until it had swept down the most of six squares.*"

The number of houses burnt is from 120 to 150, and the loss estimated at $260,000.—*Boston Post.*

ADRIANOPLE.—A destructive fire occurred at Adrianople, on the night of the 24th. The conflagration broke out in the populous quarter of the Israelites, and lasted twelve hours, reducing to ashes about six hundred houses, a considerable number of shops, thirty taverns, several mills, and five synagogues.—*A. Herald, Oct.* 28.

MERIDEN, Ct., Nov. 27.—The extensive Comb-Factory was destroyed by fire on the 27th of November. A watchman perished in the flames. Loss in property $75,000.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Dec. 1.—The loss sustained by this fire, was estimated at $25,000.

SALONICA, Greece, Dec. 17.—A destructive fire took place in Salonica, on the 17th of December, which burnt 860 houses, leaving 1500 families destitute of shelter.—*A. Herald, Feb.* 10, '47.

SCHLEDORF, France.—The *Journal des Debats* of Paris, publishes the following letter, dated Munich, Oct. 20th, 1846: "On Friday, the 16th of October, a terrible storm accompanied by lightning, fell on the village of Schledorf, situated at three leagues distance from our capital, and in less than two hours it com-

pletely destroyed that large and handsome village, *of which no trace remains.* The greater number of the houses were broken to pieces by the tempest, and the remainder were set on fire by the lightning and totally consumed. The flames communicated to the neighboring forest, which continued burning for four days. During this disaster the thermometer marked at Munich 24 degrees, Reaumur, and suffocating heat was experienced, an extraordinary fact in the month of October. The sky was of an ashy hue."

The entire loss by the fires of the last two years, will not vary much from $65,000,000 to $70,000,000; of which, from $45,000,000 to $50,000,000, may be put down to this continent.

The number of persons who have lost their lives by these fires, may be computed from 2,000 to 2,500!!

Without comment of my own, I close the account of fires with the following extracts.

In a sermon, published on the first of July, written by Rev. Samuel W. Fisher, of this city, and printed in the last number of the *National Preacher*, on 'Providence and its Teachings,' in illustrating the position, that the judgments of God are sometimes designed to destroy an unwarranted confidence in man, after speaking of the wind, and the ocean, whose united forces have so often been the terror of the times past, the eloquent author discourses of fire; and the extract we take seems an almost prophetic description of the conflagration in New York, which happened on the 19th of July, in this memorable year of devastating burnings:—*Albany Citizen.*

"Fire is an element of vital usefulness and vast force. Ordinarily it is regarded by man as wholly within his control. He employs it as his agent in ten thousand processes of art, and comfort, and luxury; at his bidding it ministers at his table, creates the heat of summer amidst the reign of winter, and drives the iron steeds and wooden leviathans over continents and

oceans. At times, warned by the past, he fortifies himself against its too exuberant activity, by self-created protections; and relying upon policies of insurance, he rises to a presumptuous confidence in his own security. Then cometh the triumph of this long manacled element.—Defying our most sleepless vigilance, bursting away from our most guarded fireside, it seizes suddenly upon our most precious treasures, it devours with appalling greediness alike the monuments of art, the mausoleums of buried glory, and the humbler abodes of the poor. As it leaps from dwelling to dwelling, rioting in the palace and the warehouse with a seemingly infernal joy, until its black footprints are the sole index where once flourished the imperial city, and the protectors and protected—the insurers and the insured—are all involved in one wide and utter ruin; then above the roar of that terrific power is heard the voice of Jehovah, rebuking the miserable confidence, men have indulged in their own boasted mastery over this great element of the material word. New York and Pittsburgh, and Quebec, on the land—the Lexington, the Pulaski, and the Missouri, on the water, are the fearful utterances of judgment addressed to the nation within a few years past, which have started us from our fancied security, and made men tremble at the cry of fire."

The following remarks, were made by the *N. Y. Evangelist*, on the great fire in New York city:—

"*God in the great fire.* Yes! God was in it, but few men saw him. Everything was observed but God.—Some men saw the powder, some the saltpetre, some the incendiaries, some the oil and spirits, some the dry weather, some the dreadful explosions: very few saw the hand of God. Some eyes looked upon the stout brick walls, and iron fire-proof shutters, built by Mr. Titus, and said, "This is our defence—see how the devouring flames give way before it!" Some thought of Rich's salamander safes, and the mutual insurance companies. Some described the men flying unharmed through the air, and lighting with life upon the side-

walks. Some told of fearful deaths, and others of hair-breadth, marvellous escapes, and others of the miracles of the Croton water and the firemen; but few spoke of God. Some went round the ruins, to map out and note down the devastation, and tell the world the result of their sagacious investigations as to the causes of the evil, and its actual extent; but few indeed, were there that asked who the evil came from, or said that God had done it, or pointed the sufferers to God.

Some said that the ruin was great, but the iron shutters stopped it, and the innate force of things in the great city of New York would roll on in the tide of business just as successfully as before. "And Ephraim said, yet I am rich, I have found me out substance." Some said it was not near as bad as in 1835; it would soon be gotten over: and they must put tanks on the tops of their buildings. "I have smitten you, yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the Lord." Some said it was a sublime and awful sight to see a great city burning. "I have overthrown some of you as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and ye were as a firebrand plucked out of the burning: yet have ye not returned unto me saith the Lord." So are God's chastisements received, as though they were not even God's providences.

The merchants are burnt out over night; and the next day congregate on 'change, and speculate in disasters, and lay plans for clearing away the rubbish of their store-houses, and building greater; but alas, how few say, "If God will, we shall live and do this or that!" How few that dream of saying, "Come, and let us return unto the Lord; for he hath torn us, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up."

The merchants and editors of our city may be assured that it is not powder, but God's chastising providence that hath caused this destruction; nor was it the Croton water, nor Mr. Titus's iron shutters, that stayed the progress of the conflagration, but God's forbearing mercy. May he give us the grace to acknowledge this,

and to return unto him. We are ready for every expedient but this; but surely, if we do not "frame our doings to turn unto our God," there are still worse chastisements in store for us. He who hath caused the fire to consume a few warehouses, could sheet our city in an unquenchable flame, if it pleased him to let loose his justice. We are full of energy in every other direction except towards heaven; we resort to all other insurance offices sooner than to God's. "When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah his wound, then went Ephraim to the Assyrian, and sent to king Jareb; yet could he not heal you, nor cure you of your wound."

God hath a voice in these providences to his churches. Perhaps he hath sent this fire into our city that the fire of divine love may be rekindled in our hearts, that his way may be prepared for a great revival of religion. He has many awakening and humbling methods, and having begun with us, he will probably go on. He is teaching us the vanity of earthly riches; the transitory frail nature of all earthly possessions. He is teaching us, and warning us to lay up treasure in heaven."

Moreover the multitude of thy strangers shall be like small dust, and the multitude of the terrible ones shall be as chaff that passeth away; yea, it shall be at an instant suddenly.

Thou shalt be visited of the Lord of hosts with thunder, and with earthquake, and great noise, with storm and tempest, and the *flame of devouring fire*.—ISAIAH.

For Israel hath forgotten his Maker, and buildeth temples; and Judah hath multiplied fenced cities; but I will send a *fire upon his cities*, and it shall devour the palaces thereof.—HOSEA.

Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain; let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; for it is nigh at hand.—JOEL.

The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly.

That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness.

A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers.

And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the Lord: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung.

Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's wrath; but the *whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy:* for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.—ZEPHANIAH.

GALES AND DISASTERS OF 1845.

The terrible storm of Feb. 6th, will be remembered by thousands, in consequence of the great destruction of life and property, along our sea-coast. In this awful storm a great number of vessels were wrecked, when, in several cases, a part or all on board perished!

CHICAGO, April 24.—This tornado swept a distance of five miles wide, prostrating fences, trees, dwellings, &c. &c.; 30 houses and barns unroofed or demolished; one woman killed, and several persons badly injured.

AMHERST, Mass., June 5.—A very severe hail storm passed through Williamsburgh, Hatfield, Amherst and Pelham, Mass., and that neighborhood, on Thursday the 5th of June; doing much damage to crops, houses, barns, fences, &c. Its current was about one mile wide. In Williamsburgh some 3000 panes of glass were broken by the hail-stones. Some twenty or twenty five acres of rye in the same town were destroyed. In Hatfield, forty acres of rye were almost wholly destroyed, and about 500 panes of glass broken. Glass, grain and trees suffered to an alarming extent. The Amherst correspondent of the *Northampton Gazette* says: "The storm came up from the north at about one o'clock, very suddenly, and passed to the south and east, and then veered to the west, south-east, and back to the north,

having boxed the compass in the short space of thirty minutes."

PRINCE EDWARD, June 19.—A terrible gale swept over this island on the 9th of June; a woman was killed by lightning. The hurricane set in suddenly about 3 P. M. Six persons out fishing in a boat were drowned; another boat, in which were eight persons, was upset, but a vessel lying at anchor near by, they were providentially picked up and saved. The violence of the wind blew a vessel off the stocks, and dashed the timbers apart, scattering them some distance; large hail fell in abundance, and broke all the windows facing to windward for miles along the coast; breaking the window frames also in many instances. Several houses and barns were blown down, and others unroofed and otherwise damaged; fences and trees prostrated, &c.—*Standard.*

GROSSE ISLE, Mich.—A violent hail storm passed over Grosse Isle, fifteen miles below Detroit, last week. The damage done, for nearly a half a mile in breadth, is very considerable. Hogs, poultry, and other animals were killed, the windows of the houses were utterly demolished, and growing crops, fruit trees, gardens, &c., seriously, if not fatally, injured.—*N. Y. Evangelist, June* 12.

JACKSONVILLE, June 19.—A violent hail storm passed over a portion of Jacksonville and the adjacent country, on the night of June 19, causing great damage to the windows of the houses, and the crops within its range. The corn and hemp crops were entirely destroyed, and the wheat much injured.—*St. Louis Republican.*

LONDON, Ohio, June 22.—A Tornado swept over London, and vicinity, June 22d, carrying almost everything before it; sweeping down houses, timber and fences, and leaving whole fields and farms exposed. Whole trees were carried high in the air, and turned over like little bushes.—*Eve. Journal.*

New York.—"One of the most terrific thunder storms ever known, passed over this city at three o'clock yesterday morning. The earth shook, and houses seemed to totter, so violent were the concussions. Window shutters banged and fell from their pivots; much glass was broken, and chimney caps were hurried as in a whirlwind along the roofs of the houses."—*True Sun.*

Brooklyn.—"About half past two o'clock yesterday morning, says the *Brooklyn Advertiser*, a violent hurricane came up, and the roar of the gale, the crash of the thunder and the vivid lightning, frightened people from their property. Considerable damage was done in the way of blowing down buildings, uprooting trees, &c."

King's Island.—The *N. Y. Express*, gives the following account of one of the most horrible ship-wrecks on record: "The news was received from Van Dieman's Land, the first of Feb. '46. The ship went ashore in a violent gale, on the 4th of Aug., on a reef, situated on the west coast of King's Island, at the entrance of Bass' Straits. The ship filled in a few hours, and during the night, a scene of horror was exhibited, without a parallel. Before morning, but 30 of the company were alive; the rest, 414 in number, having been swept into eternity by the raging ocean."

Holiguin, Cuba, Aug. 4.—A most fearful and fatal storm of thunder and lightning, took place at the town of Holiguin, Aug. 4th, killing 15 persons. In the vicinity of the town about 40 were killed.—*Voice of Truth.*

Broome Co., N. Y., Sept. 4.—A most frightful storm of wind, hail and rain, passed over this vicinity, says the *Broome Republican*, on the 4th of September, doing immense damage to fruit, crops, &c. 20,000 panes of glass were broken; one barn unroofed; fowls and birds were killed; carriages were upset by the wind; horses broke from their fastenings and ran furi-

ously through the streets. Corn was greatly damaged; fields of buckwheat were entirely destroyed; and miles and miles of fences prostrated.

ROUEN, France.—There has been a terrific whirlwind on the continent. Its effects in Holland were almost as severely felt as in France. At Rouen, however, it seems to have expended its greatest violence. In that city three extensive manufactories were destroyed by the whirlwind, while all hands were at work. Not less than 200 persons of all ages perished in the ruins, and 126 were severely wounded.—*Voice of Truth.*

ORLEANS Co., N. Y.—A terrible whirlwind passed over Orleans county, in September, and the amount of loss was estimated at $30,000.

ST. LAWRENCE Co., N. Y., Sept. 20.—A counterpart to the storm which was felt with such severity in this neighborhood appears to have occurred on the afternoon of the same day in St. Lawrence county, passing through the towns of Fine, Russel, Edwards and Fowler, passing within 150 rods of the village of Fullerville. It took, says the *Ogdensburgh Sentinel*, a southwesterly direction in a track 40 miles long, varying from one mile to 60 rods in width, tearing off branches from the largest trees, and mingling them at the hight of sixty feet in the air, with hay and grain, fowls, beds, bedding and clothing of every description taken from the houses which the fury of the elements had overthrown. Whole stacks of hay and grain, and household furniture were blown from one-half to three-quarters of a mile into the woods and destroyed.

The track in the towns of Edwards and Fowler, covers about 6,000 acres of forest, on which the tempest has left scarcely a large tree standing. It destroyed eight dwellings and nine barns.—*Utica Gazette.*

ALBANY, N. Y., Nov. 9.—The *Alb. Eve. Journal* says: "A violent gale passed over Albany on the 9th

of November, which blew down the new Penitentiary, besides doing much other damage.

[A summary of the disasters on Lake Erie, for 1845, shows 60 lives lost; 36 vessels ashore; 20 others total wrecks; and 4 sunk. The aggregate loss $190,000.]

GALES AND DISASTERS OF 1846.

The British bark Ida, on the 26th of January, in lat. 44, long. 52, while scudding before a severe gale, was thrown on her beam ends. The captain ordered the long boat to be got ready, and the passengers immediately rushed into her, followed by the captain and crew, to the number of 45. The boat, in a few moments, shipped a sea, and all in her perished!

The mate, nine men and a young woman, remained on the wreck from Monday morning till Friday, when they were taken off, much frozen and destitute; the mate being the only one able to walk.—*Portland Argus.*

Says the *N. Y. Herald* of Feb. 17th:—"Many years have elapsed since we were called upon to describe a greater calamity to life and property than that of the night of the 14th inst. and the morning of the 15th. About sixty lives have been lost in one wreck-master's district, and the amount of property is not yet fully ascertained; but enough is known to say, that from a quarter to a million of dollars will fall upon the insurers of Wall street from this gale. The ship John Minturn, which sailed from New Orleans on the 27th ult., for this port, having on board a valuable cargo—five cabin passengers—besides the captain's wife, son and daughter, with twenty seamen—struck at about three in the morning, when the captain, his wife, children, five cabin passengers, and others, amounting in

all to *twenty eight persons* perished! The vessel a total loss.

The wreck-master writes, that he never saw or heard of such an appalling scene as the beach presented for many miles. It was strewn with boxes, bales, water-casks, trunks, goods, wearing apparel, broken spars, and the bodies of the dead! By this most melancholy dispensation of an all seeing Providence, many a heart that a few days since throbbed high with hope, has forever ceased to beat!"

Nott's Island, N. C.—The *Norfolk Courier* of March 9th, says:—"We learn that a very respectable resident of Nott's Island, N. C., arrived in this city this morning, who states that the effects of the late storm were most awfully experienced on that part of the coast. He says that 50 families were drowned on Nott's Island, and 1,000 head of cattle destroyed. Wild geese were so injured, as to be taken in almost any quantity."

Barnegat Inlet, N. J.—Another wreck by the great storm. The Schooner Elmira Rogers, was wrecked near Barnegat Inlet, and every soul on board perished! —*Phil. Ledger.*

Liverpool, March 7.—The *Boston Times* Extra, of March 13, in giving a report of the latest news from Europe, says: "The papers contain accounts of a great many disasters by shipwreck.

The Bark Bencoolen, with 30 lives, was lost off the port of Liverpool, on the night of the 7th. The weather was very stormy on the Baltic from the 15th to the 20th. Many vessels were lost, including four fishing smacks, with their crews, amounting to 21 persons."

Formosa, China.—During a late storm at Formosa, an island near Canton, 3000 lives were lost by the inroads of the sea.—*A. Herald*, Apr. 29th.

Grenada, Miss., May 7.—The town of Grenada, Miss., was almost swept away by a terrible tornado, on the 7th of May.

Says the *Grenada Chronicle*:—"Amid a great confusion, the groans of the dying, and the woful and heart-rending lamentations of the living, the storm left us to pursue its march of devastation through the country.

An equally ruinous and dreadful storm, it has never been our sad misfortune to witness, or our painful duty to relate. At the thought of it, past though it be, as the danger even rises in our mind, the cold sweat gushes from our brow, and a mental prayer of thanks, true, real, heart-felt thanks to our God, fills our bosom to bursting."

There were 16 persons killed and 14 wounded.

Later accounts say, that the loss of property by this tornado, would amount to 75 or $80,000. The number of houses torn from their foundations, was 112. Persons killed, 21; wounded 60!—*Albany Argus.*

HAVANA, May 1.—A letter in the *Tribune*, dated Philadelphia, May 11th, says: "On the 4th inst., in Lat. 22 11, Long. 79 42, Capt Snell fell in with a large cutter containing 17 persons, who stated they belonged to the Swedish corvette, from Havana, bound to Sweden, which vessel had been capsized in a violent gale on the 1st. inst., when only a few days out from port, and out of 137 souls on board, 120 perished at the time of the disaster."

DANVILLE, Pa., May 23.—We learn from the *Danville Democrat* that a violent and destructive hail and thunder storm visited that section of the country on the 23d of May. Whole orchards were uprooted, and large tracts of timber land completely cut down, as though it had been mowed with a scythe. Great damage done to vegetation. Houses and barns were unroofed and destroyed, burying under their ruins a number of cattle. Loss estimated at $25,000.

WILMINGTON, Del., June 6.—A letter in the *Tribune* dated Philadelphia, June 6, says: "The tornado yesterday afternoon, below Wilmington, for a short time was fearful. It commenced about 5 o'clock, and lasted about ten minutes, prostrating trees and destroying

many buildings in its progress. Thatcher's ship house at Wilmington was lifted about ten feet into the air, and dashed to pieces. The ship house of Betts, Harling & Hollingsworth was also prostrated, and four or five persons buried beneath the ruins. Two men were taken out dead, and another so severely wounded that recovery seems impossible. The Methodist Episcopal Church was much injured.

SHIPWRECKS.

[From the annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury, on the commerce and navigation of the United States, it appears that the number of vessels lost at sea during the year ending 30th June, 1846, was 142; and in 1845, 127.

Also, that the number of steamers lost in the year 1846, was 22; and 8 in the year 1845.]

RUSSIA.—The *Herald* of July 29th says: "News has been received from the interior, of a tremendous hurricane along the banks of the Wolga, which destroyed between 100,000 and 150,000 chetwerts of flour, rye, wheat, linseed, &c. The loss is very great."

LOMBARDY, Italy.—On the 11th inst., the forest near Mouza, was almost totally destroyed by a dreadful hurricane, 4000 trees having been torn up by the roots. The country was covered with birds killed by the hail. The storm extended to the Venetian territory, where it also did great damage.—*A. Herald*, Jan. 29th.

RAROTONGA, March 16, 1846.—Mr. Bozacott, of the missionary station at Rarotonga, gives the following ac-

count of a devastating hurricane, by which that place has been visited:

"On the 16th of March, 1846, the island of Rarotonga, situated in E. lon. 160, S. lat. 21 12, was visited by the most dreadful hurricane ever known there. The sea had been rough with heavy squalls on the 15th; on the 16th the wind was high, and the mercury sinking fast. From 10 P.M. to 3 A. M. on the 17th, it blew a perfect hurricane; the rain poured in torrents, and the sea overflowed its banks, and went a long way in over the north and east settlements, carrying destruction in its progress. The rain poured; the torrents descended from the mountains, and, with the sea, nearly deluged the above two stations; and only one mission house remains standing.

Mr. and Mrs. Pitman, with their sister, were dragged through the sea, sometimes up to their necks, to a place of safety, where they had to remain exposed in the storm from 11 at night until daylight the next morning. The houses of the natives, with a very few exceptions, are in ruins. Two handsome stone chapels, and one stone school-house, all lately erected, were destroyed. Upward of 250 houses, are destroyed. Thousands of cocoanut, breadfruit, and other trees were torn up by the roots, while those standing are most of them headless, leafless, and branchless. No lives were lost; but a severe famine is in prospect, the inhabitants having lost all their food."

Mobile, Sept. 10.—The *Mobile Tribune* gives an account of the loss of the steamer New-York, on the 7th inst., when 17 persons perished! Says the narrator: "She went down in ten fathoms water, the wind blowing a perfect hurricane."

At Sea, Sept. 19.—On Saturday afternoon, Sept. 19, lat. 48 34, long. 37 43, the Great Western felt the beginning of a storm, which became terrific, and lasted until noon on Monday, the ship all the time in imminent danger, and all on board believing their hour had come. The New-York papers published a narrative, made up

of the log of Capt. Matthews, and remarks of passengers.

"About 1 P. M. on Sunday, whilst most of us were seated in agonizing suspense in the lower cabin, holding fast to the tables and settees, a sea struck the vessel, and a tremendous crash was heard on deck; instantly the cabin was darkened, and torrents of water came puring down upon us through the skylights.

"Scarcely had the waters reached the floor, when all in the cabins and state rooms sprang to their feet, and simultaneously, as if by concert, the ladies uttered a scream of agony, so painful, so fearful, and so despairing, the sound of it will never be forgotten; and Heaven grant that such a wail of anguish may never again be heard by me. Several fainted; others clasped their hands in mute despair, whilst many called aloud upon their Creator.

"It was an awful hour. The most thoughtless among us cowered in their secret heart before a danger which none but a fool or brute would have mocked, and all therefore accepted the invitation to meet in the cabin for prayer. Rev. Mr. Marsh read the 107th Psalm. Rev. Dr. Schmucker prayed. Rev. Dr. Beecher made a few solemn remarks. Rev. Dr. Balch repeated the words of our Savour, 'Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe in me;' commenting briefly on their consoling import, and then invited all present to join with him in the Lord's Prayer; after which he pronounced the Apostle's benediction.

"Amid this accumulation of horrors, and still more to add to our alarm, night gathered in around us. About 9 o'clock the Rev. Mr. Balch, at the request of several passengers, administered the holy communion in the cabin, to upwards of sixty persons; many of whom received it there for the first time in their lives. They all communed together, with others of almost every creed and nation, thus reminding us of the promise of Scripture, 'they shall come from the east and the west, the north and the south, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, in the kingdom of God.' It was a most so-

lemn scene. Mr. Balch first read the service appointed for a storm at sea, after which the whole communion service. The terrible conflict of the elements which raged without was rendered yet more striking by the impressive stillness which pervaded that company of Christ's disciples within.

"Gathered around the table, they received into hearts deeply moved, the consecrated emblems of the Redeemer's body and blood. It was a night and a communion long to be remembered."

On Monday afternoon, after the storm had abated, the passengers met and raised £200 10., to be presented to the captain, officers and crew; and contributions of $580 were at the same time made toward a 'Great Western fund,' for the relief of families whose heads and supporters had been lost at sea. A resolution expressive of gratitude to Almighty God, and of regard for the captain, officers and crew, was subsequently adopted.

When the danger had passed, said the captain, "Thrice on deck I thought destruction inevitable. Each time a sea of such magnitude and power came at the ship, that I thought it was all over with us. But unexpectedly, each broke just at the side of the ship. Sir, the hand of the Lord was in it."

"The furious tempest which was experienced by the Great Western on the 19th, was felt by other vessels in different parts of the Atlantic, between Nova Scotia and the English Channel, and caused a great many disasters.

At Newfoundland it blew a hurricane on the 19th, 20th, and 21st, and caused great destruction to life and property. Many buildings were blown down in St. Johns, and several persons were killed, or badly injured by the falling of timbers. Several bridges were carried away. Fatal accidents happened to the shipping on the coast. One boat, with a crew of seven persons, upset in running for the harbor, and all were lost. At other parts of the coast, the destruction of life and property was appaling. At Quidi Vidi, a loss of not less than £1,000 falls on poor fisherman, the proceeds of whose

summer's labor were destroyed in a few hours. At Grates Cove, in Trinity Bay, about seventy fishing skiffs lay at anchor, and sixty of them were totally wrecked and lost. In addition to the great loss of skiffs, and loads of fish and oil, the poor people's fishing stages were destroyed. They are likely to suffer much from the want of food and clothing in the course of the coming winter."—*Advocate.*

The terrible gales of October appear to have encircled the globe, carrying destruction and death before them, without a parallel. On our own coast, in the gale of the 13th, more or less damage was done in almost every harbor from Maine to Florida. The destruction was dreadful, upon land and ocean. We learn from papers published in Montreal, Buffalo, Albany, Boston, Portland, New York, Philadelphia, Wilmington, Va., and Charleston, S. C., that the destruction was beyond computation, not only upon the water, but on the land. Some idea may be formed of the strength of the wind by the following extract from the *Springfield Republican:*

"The entire superstructure of the bridge over the Connecticut river at Enfield, for the track of the Hartford and New Haven railroad, was blown off and nearly destroyed. The bridge was very high. The track was constructed on the top, which, with the sides, was tightly boarded up. The bottom was however left uncovered, and the wind getting underneath, lifted the entire structure off, and threw it over to the north side of the piers. The track lay in the river, the greater part of it as straight as ever."

The buildings unroofed and demolished; trees uprooted; fences prostrated, &c. in all parts of the country, were beyond computation!

On our coast, the number of vessels reported "*lost*," during the last half of October, were about 20! and those more or less damaged, about 130! Some six or eight entire crews were lost! besides many others who perishad amid the raging elements. The most of

which, however, was in the memorable gale of the 13th.

Gulf of Mexico, Oct. 11.—The most terrible gale that was ever witnessed on the Gulf of Mexico, is reported to have taken place Oct. 11th. Says a writer in describing the terrors of the storm:

"I was on board the revenue cutter Morris, about one mile from Key West, at anchor with one hundred and fifty fathoms of chain, with yards down on deck, and every preparation made for the storm.

At 4 P. M., the air was full of water, and no man could look to windward for a second; houses, lumber and vessels, were drifting by us; some large sticks of timber were turned end over end by the force of the current, and the sea was running so high, that as it broke over us, it brought lumber, casks, &c., on board, and carried them across our decks. At 4½, our starboard chain parted and we commenced dragging, we knew not which way, as our compasses flew around in such a manner that they became useless.

On the morning of the 12th, the scene was anything but agreeable. We had drifted about 3 miles, and half of that distance over a shoal, with only two feet of water on it at ordinary times. This was the depth of water around the Morris when I left her. Around her lie wrecks of all descriptions; one ship on her beam ends; three brigs dismasted; also three schooners; three vessls sunk in a small channel, and four vessels bottom up. How many persons attached to these vessels have been drowned I am unable to say. We have picked up only two. The Light ship at the North West Pass had gone from, or sunk at her moorings. The light-houses at Key West and Sand Key were washed away, and Key West in ruins.

A white sand beach covered the spot where Key West light-house, stood, and the waves rolled over the spot where Sand Key was. Fourteen persons were either killed or drowned at Key West light-house, and not a soul escaped to tell the tale. The only vestige of

the light-house to be seen was a portion of the iron posts of the lantern and some pieces of soap stone, which were washed one hundred yards from the spot where they fell. At Sand Key six persons were killed or drowned.

At Key West the tide was 5 feet high, and running six miles an hour through the centre of the town. The citizens fled to the back part of the town, which is rather higher than the rest, into the bushes, laid down and held on, expecting every moment the waves would reach them. Parents were separated from their children, husbands from their wives, and all was confusion, terror and dismay. The Island trembled to its very centre; a few hours more and a white sand beach would have covered the now desolate remains of Key West. The occupants of the Marine Hospital were expecting every moment to go into eternity. It is a large stone building, and being surrounded with five feet water running by six miles an hour, cutting the sand out from the foundation, the situation was awful. Thirty feet of the stone washed away from one corner, fifteen from the other, and the roof blown off. All of the wharves are washed away or injured; not one wharehouse escaped the fury of the storm; wood and stone seemed all to be going one way: to destruction. There is not more than six out of *six hundred houses*, that are not unroofed or blown down. Three hundred are estimated to have been blown down.

The public buildings at the fort, as well as the wharf, are all gone, and the fort a mass of ruins. It is estimated that the government alone will lose about $200,000. The streets and roads were impassable, being filled up with lumber and the ruins of fallen houses. Some large sticks of lumber from the fort were up in the middle of the town."

In regard to the destruction of Key West, Commodore Sloat says, that he really never beheld such havoc made on dry land, by the fury of the elements; and as to the gale, long as he has been to sea, it was the most

furious that ever raged between heaven and earth, according to his experience,

HAVANA.—We have been favored, says the *Baltimore Sun*, with the following extract of a letter from a passenger on the bark Mudara, from New-York to Havana, addressed to a frend in Baltimore, dated Havana, October 15:

"The Flirt will bring you the news of the most horrible hurricane ever experienced in this Island, and the loss of the beautiful bark Mudara. Toward 2 o'clock in the morning, our vessel commenced to drag her anchors, and at 7 A. M. we were thrown on the rocks inside the Punta Gate. Between 8 and 9 the hurricane was truly horrible; two vessels within a few yards of us were dashed to pieces; our own was bending on its beam ends, from one side to the other, 40 yards from the city wall, (30 or 40 feet high.) In vain our sailors attempted to throw a lead on shore, we could not reach it; finally they succeeded in throwing us a line from the shore, about 11 A. M. to which we attached a rope, by means of which we saved our lives, and the greater part of our baggage. The vessel is a complete wreck. The destruction in the harbor is beyond description; of near 100 vessels, only 6 have escaped. More than 40 vessels have entirely disappeared, and nearly all the rest are dismasted. All the steamers are lost. Two French men-of-war lost and two dismasted. On the morning of the 12th I saw near the Machina seven vessels, one on top of the other. The Rapid is sunk. Many houses have been destroyed; among others the Opera House is a complete ruin. It is impossible to say how many lives are lost, as many must have been drowned. One house covered eleven people. The town of Guinez is said to be a heap of ruins. At Matanzas only two vessels are said to be sound.

The destruction in the harbor, however, is infinitely greater. Millions of money are lost, and you may rest assured the merchants look very gloomy."

The *Diario*, of Havana, publishes a list of the houses destroyed or injured in and about the city, by the terrible hurricane of the 10th and 11th of October. Houses destroyed, 1275; more or less injured, 1038. Of the former, 36 were of stone, and 1239 of wood; of the latter, 225 were of stone and 813 of wood. In the district of Guanabacoa, there were ten persons killed and twenty-eight wounded, more or less grievously. In Tepaste, where there were fifteen coffee plantations, the most of the plant was destroyed, with a full third of the sugar cane. In Potreros full three-fourths of the tobacco plant were annihilated; also, the white and black beans and vegetables; the bananas are all lost. The potatoes and yams escaped without much injury, being underground productions. An immense quantity of domestic stock, cattle, poultry, etc., were destroyed. In Penalver, one third of the sugar cane and stock were destroyed. In Buenavista and San Miguel, the potatoes, Indian corn, bananas, and vegetables of all descriptions suffered immensely.

The new New-York ship *Empire*, whose loss we mentioned yesterday, was of 640 tons burthen, and was launched about three weeks since; she was valued at $50,000.—*N. Y. Tribune, Oct.* 22.

The *Boston Post* of Nov. 23, contains a list of eleven vessels, all schooners, belonging to Marblehead, which were reported lost, with their crews, in the great gale of September 19. The list comprise 65 men and boys. The number made widows by this calamity is 43, and 151 orphans.

The *True Sun* of Nov. 26, says: "The Fall of 1846 will be remembered and marked, for years to come, for the unusual number and terrible severity of its gales. We may expect to hear some sad accounts of the hurricane which prevailed through yesterday, and particularly last night, accompanied by sleet and snow. That of Monday last has proved most destructive to the vessels on the coast; several are reported ashore. A fearful gale was experienced on the lakes on Thurs-

day night, and melancholy accounts have reached Buffalo. There are 14 vessels and 3 steamers ashore between Buffalo and Cleveland. On Saturday morning 16 dead bodies floated ashore at Barcelona. The shore for miles along the Lake is strewn with fragments of vessels, and bodies are being picked up along the shore. Several vessels are ashore on Lake Ontario.

NEW LONDON, Nov. 25.—The *N. Y. Sun* says:—"Another heart rending disaster has been added to the many shipwrecks which have made the year 1846 one of sadness and woe to thousands of families and friendly circles. The Atlantic is lost! That magnificent steamer, the admiration of New York, is torn into fragments and scattered upon the waves. But, alas! this loss, however heavy and disastrous to the parties interested, is as nothing compared to the loss of the many loved ones who died amid the howling of the tempest and the crash of timber. Fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers were suddenly torn from all they held dear on earth on that dreadful night.

The boat left New London on Wednesday evening, the 25th of Nov. the wind having blown a gale during the day. Soon after entering the Sound, a heavy sea caused the explosion of the steam-chest which rendered the boat unmanageable. She drifted from Wednesday evening, dragging her anchors, till half-past four on Friday morning, when she struck, being thrown by a tremendous sea, stern first, on a ledge of rocks on Fisher's Island. In five minutes after striking, she went entirely to pieces. Eight thousand dollars worth of lace, owned by one passenger, was offered to any who would place him safely on shore. One half of her passengers were immediately lost. Their screams, the crash of the wreck, and the roar of the elements formed a horrible scene. Jacob Walton, the survivor of his whole family was only twelve years of age. His father, mother, married sister, and a younger sister, and two little brothers were lost. One of the survivors (the brother-in-law to this lad,) was married on Saturday

night week. The family were on their way to purchase a farm and settle in the vicinity of Lancaster, Penn. Only one small basket of biscuit made up their sad Thanksgiving—and the next day they perished, amid the raging elements!

The Atlantic was a new boat, having been on the water only a portion of the season, and was finished with all the elegance that modern art could bestow. Her cost was $140,000.

The papers were filled with the horrid details of the wreck of this new and splendid boat, which resulted in the death of some *fifty passengers and crew!*

Capt. Potter of the Massachusetts, represents the gale as awful in the extreme: his experience of twenty-five years in Sound navigation, having afforded nothing approaching in severity to that experienced on his passage on Thursday night."

Lake Erie.—The *True Sun* of Nov. 28th says:—"We continue to receive in our western exchanges, additional accounts of the disastrous effects to life and property, of the tremendous gale on Lake Erie which occurred on Monday week. Capt. Snow, of the brig Osceola, has died from injuries received during the gale, and seven more bodies, (23 thus far,) have been found on the beach at Barcelona and buried at that place. Some seventeen vessels and two steamers have been beached. Both steamers will prove nearly total wrecks."

The *Buffalo Commercial Advertiser* says:—"The great storm of last week, reached not only every portion of the United States, as far as heard from, but did immense damage on the St. Lawrence river. Sixteen vessels are reported ashore between Montreal and Quebec."

"The late gales have been very disastrous on the coast of Maine. More than twenty vessels were stranded near Mount Desert, and among them one (the Com. Perry,) belonging to Deer Isle, and all on board lost.

The bodies of the captain, one seaman and a female passenger have been picked up. The Frances Elisabeth, of Gloucester, the St. Cloud of Cranberry Isles, were driven on shore near Spurling's Point, and totally lost. The crews saved.—*N. Y. Sun*, Dec. 6th.

Bic Island, Nov. 20.—The *True Sun* of Dec. 7th, says:—"On Friday Nov. 20th, the brig Scottman, from Montreal for Liverpool, was wrecked in a gale on Bic Island and immediately sunk in deep water. The crew, nine in number, took the boats, and were all lost except one man. The *Acadian Recorder* gives the following account of the loss of the British brig Brothers, Capt. Sutherland, from Boston, of and for Pictou. On Thursday, 26th ult., hving parted her anchors, she was driven upon an immmense cliff, and the shock caused her instant destruction, with the loss of six men and three women. Five men were saved, in saving one of whom a fisherman lost his life."

The *Cleveland Herald* of the 30th Nov., states that the wreck of the schr. Lexington had been found, and it was supposed she foundered and went down with all on board, while at anchor during the gale of the 19th.

A report has reached us, says the *Centreville Md. Times*, that the vessel of Captain Nelson, sailing out of Wye river, was lost in one of the recent gales, and every soul on board perished, with the exception of one passenger, who reached the shore, and made known the fate of the others.—*True Sun*, Dec. 10th.

Says the *True Sun* of Dec. 21st.—"The mails, for the two past days, have brought us many accounts of marine disasters, some of them attended with loss of life. Our Baltimore correspondent states the loss of 26 vessels in that vicinity, and an unknown quantity of human life. The schooner Benjamin Bigelow went to pieces last Thursday night, and it is supposed that all on board perished. The schooner Narragansett, from this port for Boston, was totally lost on the Sow and Pigs and Alden Baker perished from cold and exhaustion.

The *Quebec Gazette* gives a list of 67 vessels, bound to or from Quebec, which have been wrecked during the past year, and adds: "The list will be continued as soon as we have the particulars of the other vessels wrecked below." The number wrecked in 1845, was 47.

The *True Sun* of Dec. 24th says: "The Pontiac arrived in this city yesterday, 63 days from Liverpool. The number of deaths on board was 19! The captain said he had crossed the ocean a number of times, and had never experienced such a severe and protracted storm before; his last loaf of bread was distributed among the passengers some three days before he made the port; and he says that the suffering of all on board was melancholy in the extreme.

The ship Creole, says the *True Sun*, was wrecked in the gale of Dec. 9th, near Neuvitas, and that the captain and 45 passengers were lost. Of one large family on board, a girl fourteen years of age only was saved. The body of a woman was found with two dead infants clasped closely to her breast.

About 400 vessels bound for the Black Sea, to take in corn, were detained at Constantinople on the 30th of Dec., by the storms which were raging in the Black Sea.—*True Sun.*

Besides the number of shipwrecks mentioned in the preceding pages, there may be put down some 20 or more, total wrecks; among which were the Dorchester, the Swallow, the Coromando, and the Henry Clay, &c. The aggregate loss of life on board these vessels was about 150, besides the loss of 3 entire crews. In the wrecks of the Dorchester, Coromando and Henry Clay, the aggregate loss of property was estimated at $668,000.

We close the foregoing account, with the following extracts.

Says the *Scientific American* for Nov. 21st:

"Those who are accustomed to making meteorological observations, report the most frequent occurrence within the last three or four months, and especially within a few days, of the *most extraordinary irregularities and apparent convulsions of the atmosphere, ever recorded, or probably witnessed.* On the 23d of October, these extraordinary indications were noticed in Florida, New-York, Flatbush, Syracuse and Montreal. These peculiar indications of the thermometer and other instruments have been such at times, as to induce apprehensions of approaching earthquakes; but nothing has yet occurred more serious than the universal prevalence of storms and tempests in all parts of the globe."

The following is from the *N. Y. Evangelist:*

"Seldom has it fallen to the lot of the conductors of the press to record so many disasters by the stormy deep, as during the past autumn. Since the terrible gale swept along our coast on the 7th, 8th and 9th days of September; putting an end to the burning heat of our protracted summer—tidings, in rapid succession, have been borne to us, of gales and storms, of tempests and hurricanes, of perils and wrecks on almost every sea and shore.

"No portion of the morning print has so painfully interested the mother, the wife and the children of the sailor, and the voyager, as the 'Marine List.' Bark after bark has gone down, or been cast upon a lee-shore, when the simple and unvarnished record has been: 'No tidings of the crew and passengers!' 'All on board perished!' 'Sixteen bodies found!' A morning paper of the 7th inst., observes:—'From all quarters we receive accounts of violent storms, causing great destruction of life and property. North, south, east and west, there seems to have been a series of perfect hurricanes.'

"Among the disasters, none have so deeply and painfully interested the whole community, as the loss of the Atlantic, with nearly fifty of her passengers and crew.

We had no fears in relation to our steamers on Long Island Sound, or at least in relation to the Atlantic. We had no conception that the blow would fall upon us from that quarter. And when it came, we were held in mute amazement. We could scarcely credit the first report; and refused to believe, until the bodies of the dead, and the bleeding, bruised forms of surviving friends compelled us into grief.

"From all these wrecks and terrors of the present and the past, there comes a voice of solemn and awful remonstrance—the voice of the sea, crying in every ear, 'Prepare to meet thy God!' Taught by these distressing providences, and recognizing the voice of the Almighty in these storms, it becomes us to pause—to consider our ways—to look to our hopes; and to ask 'Am I prepared to die?'

"The voice of the sea is the voice of God. 'The sea is his and he made it.' 'He commandeth and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves of the sea.' It was God who heaved that rocky island from the depths, who filled the deep with billows, who raised that stormy wind and marked its course, who lashed the bosom of the sea with his mighty tempests, who cast that frail bark as a weed upon the rock, who summoned those immortal beings into his awful presence, and tolled their funeral knell with his dreadful blasts. He is a great and a terrible God. He it is whose judgments are calling us to repentance. Let us hear his awful voice and tremble.

"Art thou unprepared to meet him? Tremble before so great a God. Trifle not with his offered mercy. 'The sea hath spoken, even the strength of the sea.' The God of the sea is ringing an alarm in the ears of the careless. Hear it, ye thoughtless, ye unconverted souls; hear it and live. Presume not on his forbearance. Spurn not his Gospel; grieve not his Spirit. 'Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way when his wrath is kindled but a little.' 'Acquaint thyself with him and be at peace.' Listen to that Saviour who died to redeem thee, and waits to wash thee in his blood.

Yield to that Spirit, whose love you have so resisted, and who is now speaking to thee in the storms of the sea. Go on bended knees to that gracious Father, who waits to welcome the prodigal, and say to him, 'Father, I have sinned! my guilt forgive; my soul renew; and make me thine forever!' Go, ere you sleep; go now, and trust no more the uncertain future.

"Moments seize;
Heaven's on their wing; a moment we may wish,
When worlds want wealth to buy."

So persecute them with thy *tempest*, and make them afraid with thy *storm*.—DAVID.

And the Lord shall cause his glorious voice to be heard, and shall shew the lightning down of his arm, with the indignation of his anger, and with the flame of a devouring fire, with scattering, and *tempest*, and *hail-stones*.—ISAIAH.

Behold, a *whirlwind* of the Lord is gone forth in fury, even a *grievous whirlwind*: it shall fall grievously upon the head of the wicked.

The anger of the Lord shall not return, until he have executed, and till he have performed the thoughts of his heart: *in the latter days ye shall consider it perfectly*.—JEREMIAH.

And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; *the sea and the waves roaring*;

Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth; for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.

And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud, with power and great glory.—LUKE.

FLOODS OR INUNDATIONS IN 1845.

The *Evening Journal* of March 24th, says:—"A letter from Macao, gives the following most extraordinary account of the overflowing of the rivers in the north of China. This inundation surpasses, in its terrible and fearful consequences, any of the inundations in Europe

or America in modern times. We are told that 'on the shores of the Yellow Sea the phenomenon took the character of a second deluge. Whole provinces, with populations respectively larger than some of the second class kingdoms of Europe, were almost entirely submerged. The retreat of the waters left corpses in thousands. Large floating casks, contained the bodies of young children—whose mothers, when all hope for themselves was gone, had committed them to these floating arks, as a last slender chance for salvation.—Upwards of *seventeen millions* of human beings, who escaped from the inundations, have poured themselves over the adjacent provinces, beggared of all things, and crying for bread."

Says the *Boston Mail*:—"We are pained to learn that there has been a most extensive and wasting flood upon the Rhine. In Cologne the streets along the river were under water, which at the date of the information, (March 31,) had reached the lower stories and was still rising. The town of Delft was nearly overflowed, and in a pleasure garden, the upper branches only of the trees were visible. The dikes were broken down, and a fearful devastation was continually on the increase.

Such a flood, it is said, has not occurred for nearly two generations. It extended from the borders of Switzerland to Holland !"

Other accounts add, that the news from all parts of the Elbe were afflicting. The waters were still rising. Advices from Affenbach of the 1st inst. announce that half that town was under water. The damage caused by the floods in the town, was estimated at 100,000 guilders. The *Revue de Paris* states that the entire Germanic confederation, a part of Austria, and of Poland, had been literally under water since the 30th of March. The Rhine, the Maine, the Neckar, the Danube, the Elbe, and the Vistula, had in succession overflowed their banks, not in a day, but in an hour! Several thousand villages, were covered with water! The magnificent bridge of Dresden was carried away, and many edifices were destroyed.

There was a terrible flood on Niagara River, April 1st. An extraordinary excitement prevailed at Queenstown and Lewiston for three days. At these places, every thing on the wharves was swept off. At Youngstown, it cleared every house near the wharves. Estimated loss, $100,000.—*Rochester Daily Dem.*

Says the editor of the *Voice of Truth*, Aug. 6th:—"As our paper is going to press we have received news from Europe. Spain is in a dreadful condition. Terrific floods and thunder storms have visited the United Kingdom and continent; many lives have been lost and great damage done."

Says the *Voice of Truth* of Oct. 29th.—UPPER and LOWER HUNGARY have been entirely laid waste by most dreadful inundations, that occurred at the beginning of August. Upwards of a million of the inhabitants are threatened with all the horrors of famine.

A letter in the *Tribune*, dated HALLOWELL, ME., Nov. 5th, says:—"The rain storm that commenced on Saturday last, and continued Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, has caused an almost unexampled sudden rise of water in the Kennebec river, so that this morning, at six o'clock, the bells are ringing to arouse the people of the village to the importance of taking measures to secure the property in the cellars or stores on the margin of the river.

The water is already eight feet above the level of high water mark, and the rise increasing. Cellars are flooded—wharves four or five feet under water—vessels in port making fast to posts in the street and brick buildings, with the masts within six feet of our office windows. The logs are running in thousands, and booms, wood-piles, and every moveable object within twenty feet of the shore, are being carried off by the swelling flood. Water street in the lower part of the village is covered with water.

Reports from Sandy river state that great destruction has been caused by the freshet on that river, and that bridges, &c., &c., have been swept away.

FLOODS IN 1846.

The town of ALBOBACA, so celebrated in Portuguese history, has been the scene of a disaster somewhat similar to what is elsewhere described of one of the Cape de Verd Islands. On the night of the 12th ult., that town was completely inundated. The rivers rose and flooded the newly sown fields; the squares of the town had the appearance of inland seas; the roads were lost in water. The people, who had never before experienced such a phenomenon, believed another deluge was on the land, that their place was doomed.—*Voice of Truth*, March 4th.

In ALBANY, March 15th, the water was higher in the Hudson river, by 8 or 12 inches, than in the memorable freshet of 1837. In all the lower part of the city, families were compelled to retreat to the second story, and the loss and distress of many of the poorer classes was very severe. Great loss of property in the warehouses and cellars. Greenbush was all literally under water. Several buildings were moved from their foundations—the ways for repairing vessels were swept away, and other damage done. All the bridges on the Oriskany for 15 miles, were carried away, and the canal and rail road suffering more or less damage.—*Argus.*

BUFFALO, N. Y., March 14.—We learn from the *Rochester Daily Adv.*, that a terrible freshet visited Buffalo on the 14th of March, doing great damage to vessels in the harbor. The writer says: "Between the foot of Main street and the lake, there were some 15 or 20 canal boats, all of which disappeared, and supposed entirely demolished! The steamers United States, Wisconsin, Chatauque, Frankfort, Indian Queen, and two or three others, greatly injured. Every steamboat lying in the Creek, was more or less injured, except the Clinton and Indiana. The Rochester broke two cables, and dashed down the creek with fearful velocity, carrying every thing before her. About

20 schooners were lying in the creek, and every one greatly damaged; some completely demolished. The steamer Dole was sunk! The propellers were all badly injured. Loss from $50,000 to $100,000.

The *Pennsylvanian*, of March 18, says: "The recent great freshet on the Susquehannah river and its tributaries, has damaged the public works to the amount of $35,000; to private corporations, about $400,000; to counties, about $50,000; and to individuals a sum which we have no means of estimating, but which we think *half a million* of dollars will not cover!"

MAINE.—The eastern papers are filled with the details of a great flood on the Penobscot, Saco and Kennebec rivers. Stores and ware-houses at Hallowell, Gardiner and Augusta, were overflowed by water. On the former river at Bangor, Orono, Oldtown and Stillwater, saw-mills and large piles of lumber were swept away. The lumber dealers suffered severely, as one firm alone, lost 200,000 feet of lumber.—*Alb. Argus.*

POTTSVILLE, Pa., May 10.—A destructive flood occurred at Pottsville, on the 10th of May. The Schuylkill overflowed its banks, doing great damage. Three men were drowned! Great injury was done to the canal. Many bridges were carried away; and the public works were very extensively damaged.—*Rochester Daily Advertiser.*

HAMPSHIRE Co., Va.—In Hampshire county, not only were whole crops of grain and corn destroyed, but the soil was totally swept away by the resistless impetuosity of the recent floods, leaving in their train heaps of stones. Many of the inhabitants were compelled to leave their dwellings in the night, and take refuge in the open wood.—*Argus, June* 26.

A writer in the *Baltimore Patriot*, under date of Pittsburgh, July 24, 1846, says: "I hasten to inform you of one of the most destructive freshets that ever

visited these parts. The Monongahela river on Friday, had risen 10 feet plum water, and that so suddenly as to carry almost every thing before it.

One steam ferry boat, and 16 coal boats are known to have been destroyed.

One man lost 30,000 feet of lumber. The keeper of Dam No. 1, said that boats of some description were passing over the dam all night; keel boats, flats, hay stacks, board rafts and various other kinds of property passed by our city during the whole day.

We did not hear of but one life being lost. There is no possibility of making any thing like a correct estimate of the loss; it must be immense."

MADISON, Ind., Aug. 3.—A terrible storm and freshet occurred at Madison, on the 3d of August. The loss of property was estimated at about $100,000. A writer in the *Banner* says: "It was an awful and sublime spectacle. Houses, animals, fences, barrels, and all kinds of household furniture came whirling along as though they were mere bubbles or feathers floating in the air!"—14 persons lost their lives!

The *True Sun* of Nov. 21, says: "The inundation in France, of which brief mention was made in our summary of foreign news by the Great Western, was confined to the banks of the Loire; but its effects were of the most appalling extent and severity. Entire villages have disappeared beneath the flood; all communication has been cut off, and whole neighborhoods are without shelter, food or clothing."

Later accounts say that "the French Minister of the Public Works has received a general report on the ravages committed by the floods, from which it appears that it will require upwards of 65,000,000 of francs to repair the bridges, embankments, roads, &c., which have been destroyed. This estimate does not comprise the amount of injury suffered by private property.

Subscriptions have been opened in Paris and through-

out the kingdom, in behalf of the thousands of wretched beings utterly or partially ruined by the late disastrous floods in the departments of the Loire. The King and royal family have contributed 120,000 francs."

Ohio, Jan. 6, 1847.—The following is from the Cincinnati papers:—"The late rise in the Sciota and Miami Valleys was so great, that a large part of the city of Dayton has been destroyed. All the canal bridges about Dayton are carried off; hogs for slaughter, pork, flour, and lumber yards, are all gone; mills and factories full of water to the first story.

From Hamilton, Butler county, the news is of the same distressing character. Rossville was partly under water, and the Hamilton Hydraulic Works entirely destroyed. Fences, cattle, buildings, &c., had been swept away, and the best farms below Columbus, presented but one entire waste. So high had been the waters, and so great the destruction of bridges, that no mails had been received at Columbus for three days.

The damages at Dayton are estimated at $1,000,000 or $1,500,000. Several lives were lost, and entire flocks of sheep, swine, &c., were drowned. At Cleveland also an immense amount of property was destroyed, and many bridges swept away.

Delaware, Randolph and Wayne counties, Ia., were completely inundated by the rise of White river and Whitewater river; the loss of hay, corn and hogs, was immense. One man lost nearly 500 hogs.

It is estimated that the Miami flood destroyed about 1,000 miles of fence, and from one to three million bu'nels of corn.

The damage occasioned by this freshet, is set down at about *two millions* of dollars. Over one million of bushels of corn were swept away from the Sciota valley alone. The whole country was inundated.

Egypt.—Information has just been received from Egypt by a respectable house in Belfast, that the overflowing of the Nile has carried away 93 villages in

Lower Egypt, with all the produce they contained, including a very large quantity of flax.—*A. Herald*, Feb. 3, 1847.

"Moreover the multitude of thy strangers shall be like small dust, and the multitude of thy terrible ones shall be as chaff that passeth away; yea, it shall be at an instant suddenly. Thou shalt be visited of the Lord of hosts with thunder, and with earthquake, and great noise, with *storm* and *tempest*, and the flame of devouring fire."—ISAIAH.

EARTHQUAKES IN 1845.

EARTHQUAKE AT MEXICO.—At the moment we write, says the *Siglo* of April 8th, the inhabitants of the capital of the republic are still under the influence of the horrors excited by the earthquake of yesterday, the disastrous effects of which we are still imperfectly acquainted with. It lasted about two minutes. The shocks were terrible; nothing like them was ever experienced before. In an instant the multitude, but a moment previous tranquil and listless, were upon their knees, praying to the Almighty, and counting with anxiety the shocks which threatened to convert the most beautiful city in the New World into a vast theatre of ruins.

It is impossible yet to ascertain the extent of destruction. Not a house or a door but bears the marks of this terrible calamity. Many of them are cracked and greatly injured, others are tottering; and others entirely fallen. At 8 o'clock last evening, seven persons had been taken from the ruins.—*N. O. Bee.*

ANOTHER EARTHQUAKE.—This took place on the 10th, three days after the other. The *Diario* states that it lasted forty seconds; that it overthrew many new buildings, and many others that had escaped the former visitations; and most of the inhabitants, stricken with terror, left their houses and took refuge in the open fields and public squares, passing the night without shelter, and in the utmost consternation. But for the shortness of its duration, the entire city would have been laid in

ruins. Mexico did not suffer alone. The shock was felt in a number of towns and villages, within a radius of several hundred miles, doing more or less damage.—*N. Y. Evangelist.*

HONAN, China.—Accounts had been received at Canton of a terrible earthquake, in the province of Honan, which had demolished about *ten thousand* houses, and killed upwards of 4,000 of the inhabitants.—*A. Herald*, Oct. 1.

LONG ISLAND, Oct 26.—On Sunday evening, Oct. 26th, a rumbling noise as of a heavy carriage, lasting about half a minute, was heard at nearly the same time over a large district of country including this city, the west end of Long Island, and Westchester county.

The whole earth seemed to shake so violently that a gentleman standing near his house was nearly thrown off his feet. Whole families ran into the street in consternation. All through Fairfield county in Connecticut, the shock was very severe. At Greenfield Hill, considerable consternation was produced among the people. A gentleman residing there mentions it as a fact, perhaps connected with this phenomena, that on Thursday evening the springs and wells in that neighborhood were all dry for more than an hour and a half—the water having apparently receded from them into the earth. —*Evening Post.*

EARTHQUAKES IN 1846.

AMBOYNA, July 20.—Seven shocks of earthquake were felt, at Amboyna, on the 20th July, and the two following days. The government house at Batoe Gadja was so much injured that the inmates were obliged to remove. The military hospital was also damaged.—*A. Herald*, Jan. 28.

Cuba, West Indies, April 23.—The town of Cuba was violently shaken by earthquake, on the 23d of April, causing the greatest consternation. The people rushed into the street for safety. The first shock lasted one or two minutes, and after a lapse of five minutes, the ground was again violently shaken. It was a solemn moment: in every direction the affrighted inhabitants might be seen on their knees, calling on God to save them, expecting every moment to be swallowed up. Several buildings were thrown down, and very many cracked.—*Phil. American.*

Messina, Greece.—Great disasters occurred at Messina, in June, by repeated shocks of earthquakes.—Four villages were entirely destroyed. Several plantations were completely ruined, and the ground opened in various places and vomited forth torrents of water and mud. The loss of life very great, but the exact amount not known.—*Voice of Truth*, Sept. 9th.

Italy, Aug. 14.—Says the *Boston Journal*:—"On the 14th of Aug., there was a violent shock of an earthquake in Italy. The greatest disasters occurred in the territories of Oriciano, Risparbella, Monticudajo, Guardestallo, Lorenzana, and Vivajo; and the destruction has extended to the cities in the neighborhood, doing more or less damage. Leghorn, Pisa and Volterra, received considerable injury; the first (Leghorn) scarcely contains one house that is not cracked, and some are so much injured that they are deserted. The town of Oriciano has been entirely destroyed; one house only remaining—150 persons were wounded, and 80 or more perished in this awful visitation!"

Island of Trinidad.—Says the *Voice of Truth*, of Nov. 11th:—"Twelve or fifteen shocks of an earthquake have been experienced in this island within the last few days, some of them more severe than any felt there for many years. Much damage done to buildings, and the ground cracked in several places. Two of the shocks occurred during divine service, and one while the people, or a portion of them, were assembled at the theatre."

The following letter was published in the *Journal of Commerce*, from Prof. E. Meriam, under date of Aug., 26, 1846.

"Messrs Editors:—In your telegraphic notice this morning, you state that an earthquake was felt in Boston and the neighboring towns, on Tuesday night. Messrs. Dutilh & Cousinery, No. 23 South William Street New York, have letters from Smyrna, in Asia, of the 28th of June, stating that an earthquake was experienced there on the 25th of June. The shock was very severe, and much damage was done.

In the Journal of Commerce of January 10, 1846, you chronicle an earthquake at Memphis, on the 23d of December, 1845; in your paper of April 1st, you state an earthquake took place at Maysville, Ky., on the 23d of March; and in your paper of the 23d April, you also state the occurrence of an earthquake at Cuba, on the Island of Cuba, on the same 23d of March.

In your paper of March 7th, you give an account of an earthquake at Cincinnati, on the 28th of February: in your paper of May 15th, you state an earthquake was experienced at Santa Cruz, on the south side of Cuba, on the 28th of April; and in that of July 7th, that an earthquake was felt at Catania, in Sicily, on the 28th of April.

In your paper of March 14, you state an earthquake was experienced at the Belgian settlement of Santa Thomas, on the 30th of January; and in the paper of June 4, you state that shocks of an earthquake were felt in Salem and Newburyport, on the 30th of May.

Thus, you will see by this recital, that there has been an extraordinary regularity as to the particular day of the month, viz. 3d or the 23d, 8th or the 28th, and on the 30th day of the month.

You have also chronicled in the Journal of the 30th of July, an earthquake at Martinique, and Guadaloupe, on the 16th of June; in the Journal of May 26th, an earthquake at Memphis, Tennessee, on the 8th of May; in the Journal of August 5th, earthquakes in the Morea; and in that of August 22d, an earthquake and meteor at Fincastle, in Virginia, on the 12th of August.

The earthquakes of Greece occurred in June, but the particular days are not stated. I hope to ascertain them.

You will see that the Catania earthquakes travelled east, from April to June, commencing in east longitude about 15 deg; then in the Morea, in longitude about 22, and last in Smyrna, in longitude about 27 deg.

All of these earthquakes have produced *equilibriums* on Brooklyn Heights, the particulars of which have been sent you regularly from time to time, in the New York Municipal Gazette.

The great number of earthquakes which have been experienced within the last eight months, has been wonderful—our atmosphere has been singularly affected, as you will see by the extensive and very minute records in the Municipal Gazette.

The Icelandish Mountains have been greatly agitated, and continued in that state at the last dates—the mountains had been quiet for more than half a century."

The following is from the *Scientific American*:—

"TERRESTRIAL CONVULSIONS.—We have in a former number alluded to some extraordinary disturbance in the atmosphere, noted by Prof. E. Meriam, on the 3d of September. Mr. M. has since obtained intelligence from various parts of the world, and ascertained that at about the same time there were a succession of convulsions which he mentions in the following order:

Iceland was heaved by earthquakes and volcanoes on the 22d of August; earthquakes on the rivers of New England and its sea coast on the 25th;—throughout Tuscany in Europe on the 27th of August—on the 2d of September at Java: at Grenada on the 6th; at Trinidad on the 10th; at Deerfield, N. H. on the 12th; and Cape Havtuen on the 15th of September; thus making eight convulsions in as many different and distant locations in 24 days—followed by fearful tempests—dreadful gales—terrific hurricanes—hail, rain and snow—

destroying thousands of human lives, and casting into the lap of ruin millions on millions of property. At Java, at the date above mentioned, the Gunong Meraphi, a high mountain on that island, was throwing out immense volumes of fire and smoke, and a river of burning lava was running down the mountain side. This mountain has not before been convulsed for 1000 years.

P. S. Since writing the above we have seen another report of Meriam's observations, stating that for 36 hours on the 27th and 28th of December there prevailed an equilibrium of the atmosphere which strongly indicated a convulsion in some distant part of the earth."

We insert the following, as published in the papers.

GRAFTON STEAM MILLS,
Grafton Harbor, C. W. Jan., 9, 1847.

SIR:—A most singular phenomenon occurred at this place yesterday afternoon, about 3 o'clock which may be thought worth a place in your paper. The lake was calm, and the wind in the north, when suddenly the lake receded from the shore in one immense wave, upwards of 350 feet, leaving the beach perfectly dry for that distance! It seemed to gather itself into a vast cone, and immediately returned in one unbroken wave, four feet higher than it usually is, burying the wharf completely, and overflowing its usual boundaries upwards of a hundred yards, sweeping everything before it, accompanied by a dreadful noise! This happened eight or nine different times, gradually decreasing in violence until the lake resumed its usual appearance.

THOMAS THOMSON,
Miller, Grafton Steam Mills.

Our readers will remember that in 1845 we chronicled an occurrence similar to the above, as having taken place in our own harbor. The same convulsion that affected the lake at Grafton Harbor on Friday, ran along the coast from that place to Fort Hope. It was, however, unattended with the heavy thundering sound heard at Grafton. We know the writer of the above letter, and place every confidence in his statement. We have also received a confirmatory letter from the proprietor of the Grafton Steam Mills, A. G. Allan, Esq.—*Cobourg Star.*

A VOLCANO AT WORK—MORE WONDERFUL CONVULSIONS.—We yesterday recorded a wonderful convulsion of the waters of Lake Ontario, as having taken place week before last. A similar one occurred at Rice Lake, about 12 miles north of Cobourg, last week. The Lake was seen in great commotion, the ice (18 inches thick,) undulating in every direction. Presently it burst with a noise like thunder, and a large piece from the centre of the Lake, was in a few minutes thrown up in a pile to the height of ten feet, in which position it now lies. This is no doubt related to the earthquake which caused the awful commotion in Lake Ontario at Grafton.—*Advertiser.*

It will be seen by the following extract, that the Earthquakes for the last two years, have not been so destructive as some of former times; although much more frequent, and "*in diverse places*," truly! and should be ominous to us!

The *N. Y. Gazette* says:—The craters of volcanoes act as safety-valves; where there is no safety-valve there there must be an earthquake.* Sixty-one earthquakes have occurred on the coast of Chili. An earthquake at Lisbon, capital of Portugal in 1755, shook all the seas of Europe, the North of

* These safety-valves, for wise purposes, are situated as follows:—Mount *Etna* in Sicily; Mount *Vesuvius* in Italy; Mount *Hecla* in Iceland; and in South America, among the Andes, are numerous volcanoes, the most celebrated among them is *Cotopaxi*, the loftiest on the globe.

Africa, and the West Indies, and even *Lake Ontario!* It lasted only six seconds, but in that time it destroyed one-quarter of the dwelling-houses, all the public buildings, and 30,000 inhabitants of Lisbon. During the earthquake at Lima, the officer of a ship says that the ship was violently tossed, the surface of the water *boiled*, and was covered with dead fishes. In 1796, three quarters of the city of Lima and 120,000 of its inhabitants were destroyed by an earthquake.

In 1822, an earthquake destroyed the greater part of Aleppo in a few seconds, together with 30,000 persons.

On the 1st of January, 1837, an earthquake visited the countries along the eastern extremity of the Mediterranean. The towns of Damascus, Acre, Tyre and Sidon suffered great damage, and Tiberias and Safet were entirely destroyed, with 6,000 souls.

On the 29th September, 1717, the town of Guatemala was greatly damaged by an earthquake, and entirely destroyed by another on the 29th June, 1773.

Caraccas was destroyed by an earthquake, with 12,000 of its inhabitants, in 1812.

During an earthquake, in 1797, Quito was greatly damaged and Redbamba levelled to the ground, and 40,000 persons were buried in the ruins.

The town of Lima has always been very subject to earthquakes. Besides the earthquake already mentioned, it was almost entirely destroyed on 20th Oct. 1687 and again on the 28th October, 1746. During the latter, the port of Callao was inundated by the sea, and every soul perished. Conception, in Chili, was destroyed in 1730, 1751, and 1835, by earthquakes and inundations.

Islands have been formed by the force of volcanic action, and it is a curious fact that earthquakes frequently have an opposite effect. For instance, in the year 867, Mt. Arcarey fell into the sea. Many towns in Japan, in China, were covered by the sea in 1596. In 1638, St. Eupheme settled into a lake. In 1642, Port Royal sank into the sea. In 1819, a large tract of land at the mouth of the Indus sank.

Earthquakes sometimes cause a rise of the land. During an earthquake on the Chilian coast, a tract of land, one hundred miles long, was elevated from two to seven feet. At the same place, in 1835, the land was raised ten feet. This caused a great wave of the sea twenty-eight feet high, which rushed in and destroyed the town of Jalcagnano. The amount of land elevated was equal to fifty-seven cubic miles, or 365,000,000 of the great Pyramids of Egypt. During an earthquake in the eastern part of Iceland, in 1819, 2,000 square miles of land were converted into an inland sea; at the same time 7,000 square miles, or more than one fourth of Iceland, was raised ten feet."

As a recent writer remarks:—"Science indeed tells us that the centre of our earth is filled with rolling floods of liquid fire, which are continually wasting and destroying it. But than science, we have a more sure word of prophecy. "*As for the earth, out of it cometh bread: and under it is turned up as it were fire.*" (*Job.* 28:5.) These fires are, doubtless, continually rolling to and fro, seeking to escape through the *safety-valves* (volcanic mountains) which God has at present prepared for them, that the earth might not explode. While thus in motion, they operate on the various *strata* of the earth, wasting, exploding, and removing it, causing a rumbling of the earth, which we call earthquakes. Thus these fires have been at work for about 6,000 years; and is it not reasonable, that the effect of them

should be still more apparent? Hence we conclude, that having, in a great measure, devoured the very foundations of the earth, there must not only be more frequent alarms felt and seen of them, but the thinness and weakness of the remaining *strata* cannot long hold them down—they must immediately "*set on fire the foundations of the mountains, and consume the earth with her increase.*"—*Deut.* 32:22.

Thou shalt be visited of the Lord of hosts with thunder, *and with earthquake*, and great noise, with storm and tempest, and the flame of devouring fire.—ISAIAH.

And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

* * * * * * *

For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and *earthquakes in divers places.*—MATTHEW.

And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a *great earthquake;* and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig-tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind;

And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places;

And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bond-man, and every free-man, hid themselves in the dens, and in the rocks of the mountains;

And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb;

For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?—REVELATION.

PESTILENCE.

WESTERN INDIA.—The cholera has reappeared in almost every department of Western India, making

frightful ravages among the native inhabitants. At Lahore, from five to six hundred die daily, and 30,000 have fallen victims.—*A. Herald, Sept.* 17, 1845.

CEYLON.—Mr. Meigs, a missionary to Ceylon, writes that the cholera is raging most fearfully in the district where he is stationed. He says that 6000 have died within the last three months.—*A. Herald, May* 13, '46.

AFRICA.—Capt. Yarrington, of the Brig Pauline, at Boston, reports that on the 18th of March, at Roavista, Cape Verde Islands, the yellow fever and black vomit were raging. Since October last, it was stated, that between 4000 and 5000 had died, and all the principal inhabitants had left the Island.—*Voice of Truth June*, 24.

A letter from Copenhagen, of the 21st of September, says:—"We have just received news from Iceland to the 18th, and from the Færroe Islands, to the 25th ult. Never, in the memory of man, has there been a more disagreeable summer than the present. Torrents of rain and storm succeeded each other without intermission. The measles and the dysentery carried off almost the fourth of the inhabitants, especially on the coasts."

KURRACHEE, India.—The cholera at Kurrachee has been most disastrous. Between the 14th and the 23d of June, about 8,000 human beings were cut off, including 805 Europeans; of whom 815 were fighting men. Besides this, 595 Sepoys, and it is believed about 7000 Natives have died.—*Journal of Commerce October* 1.

The *Bombay Times*, says: "So sudden was death with some, that they were seized, cramped, collapsed, dead, almost as fast as I have written the words."

BAGDAD.—The cholera has extended its ravages from Persia to Bagdad, in which city about 100 victims to the disease were, by the last accounts, perishing daily.—*True Sun, Dec.* 7.

TABREEZ, Persia.—The cholera was still raging at Tabreez, at the end of October. It is said that from the 11th to the 27th of that month, 10,000 persons had died, and that the number of deaths daily, when the account left, was 200.—*A. Herald, Feb.* 3, '47.

A letter from Constantinople of the 17th of December, has the following:—

"News has been received from Persia that the cholera was still raging and sweeping off thousands. At Oroomiah the mortality was upward of 200 a day on the poor population of 10,000. I have just seen a doctor, assuring me that according to his statistics the deaths had greatly exceeded the worst year of the plague; he calculates that more than 100,000 have been destroyed.—*Voice of Truth, Feb.* 10, '47.

FAILURE OF THE CROPS—FAMINE, &c.

The *National Intelligencer* says:—"The foreign journals give fearful accounts of the scarcity prevailing in various parts of Europe, with statements of actual famine in some quarters. While the potato crop has failed in the British dominions and elsewhere, the rye crop, much depended on in Germany, has failed there. In France great apprehension is felt with regard to subsistence. A riot occurred in Paris on the last of Sept., 1846, in consequence of a rise in the price of bread. The shops of the bakers were attacked."

A London Journal, the *Sun*, of October 1st, gives a more distinct picture of the sufferings experienced in some parts of Ireland:

"Unhappily, the patience of the unfortunate Irish is at length exhausted. We have now before us that most appalling spectacle of national agony, a people driven to desperation by the pangs of hunger, and braving a violent death rather than endure the bitter torments of a more lingering dissolution. Towards the conclusion of last week, a slight glimmer of the approaching insurrection was observable in the vicinity of Crookha-

ven, where a vast concourse of the emaciated peasantry assembled together in the village of Golen, to proclaim that their wretchedness was no longer endurable.

'A more appalling spectacle could not be witnessed,' writes one correspondent. Want and despair was the pervading characteristics of the multitude. The peasantry at Dungarvin assumed such a threatening aspect, and congregated together in such dangerous numbers, that the military were called out, several shots were fired upon the mob, many of the starving rioters were wounded, and two died from mutilation!"

SCOTLAND:—The *John O'Groat Journal* of Sept. ('46,) furnishes the following description of the deplorable condition of the people of the county of Caithness, in Scotland, caused by the total failure of the potato crop:—

"It is impossible to contemplate the coming winter without fear and trembling. What are the facts? For ten months in the year, fully three fourths of the food of at least twenty-five thousand of the inhabitants of this county consists of potatoes. These potatoes are nearly all destroyed, consequently, there is to be made up a deficiency of three-fourths of the people's food.—Their little plats of potatoes, to which they looked for sustenance in winter, are entirely destroyed. Meal is dear, but even were it cheap, they have no money wherewith to buy it, and there is nothing for them but want, dire want. Even while we now write, the cry is abroad in the town that there is no meal to be had. But were it to be had, how is the money to be raised to buy it? But, once again, let us look at the Latheron district. We have the testimony of several gentlemen, in whose veracity we have the fullest confidence, that the prospects of that district of Caithness are truly dreadful. With a miserable fishing—blighted potatoes—diseased turnips—deeply in debt—the poor people are already in a dreadful plight. They are, with few exceptions, all poor together. But how much worse must they now be, when both land and sea refuse to give them of their abundance?"

Says the *True Sun*:—"The failure of the potato crop is universal. The reports from every part of the United Kingdom are appalling, whilst letter after letter from the continent of Europe details the ravages which this strange and unaccountable disease has made in France, Belgium, Holland, Prussia, Austria, Russia, &c. As yet men of science have failed to trace the failure to any particular cause, and the practical farmer feels at a loss what to do. The fact is, that the potato disease is an agricultural puzzle, which neither the one nor the other can satisfactorily solve."

The Paris papers of Oct. 29th, state that in France, the potatoes are totally destroyed by the blight; and the distress of the people is in no respect less severe than that which is reported to prevail in Ireland. Last year was considered a calamitous season. It was, however, one of abundance compared with the present. None, save those who are compelled to witness them, can adequately estimate the terrible sufferings which, from this combination of the scourges of flood, fire, and famine, await the innumerable families during the approaching winter.—*N. Y. Herald.*

The *N. Y. Sun* says:—"The most important intelligence brought by the European Mail of Oct. 20th is the continued scarcity of bread stuffs, and the consequently increasing price of grain. In Ireland, the distress is painful and alarming. In Belgium, particularly among the operatives, it is frightful, full 200,000 people having been thrown out of employment by labor-saving machines. The English ministry are looking in every direction for the means of supplying the deficiency."

The same paper continues:—"All the religious denominations of the British Islands have appointed services and prayers suitable to times of famine. The Scotch and other dissenting churches are holding fast days, and all other sects in their own peculiar way, are also pouring forth their aspirations to Almighty God to avert the horrors of famine which now threaten the nations of the old world."

[*Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly*, gather the elders, and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the Lord your God, and cry unto the Lord,

Alas for the day! for the day of the Lord is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.

Is not the meat cut off before your eyes, yea, joy and gladness from the house of our God?

The seed is rotten under their clods, the garners are laid desolate, the barns are broken down; for the corn is withered.—JOEL.]

The steamship Sarah Sands, which arrived in New York Feb. 10th, 1847, from Liverpool, brought us the following information in relation to the famine in different portions of Europe.

On the opening of the English Parliament, Jan. 19th, the Queen opened the session in person. The following is an extract of the speech of her Majesty on the occasion:—

"*My Lords and Gentlemen:* It is with deepest concern, that upon your again assembling, I have to call your attention to the dearth of provisions which prevails in Ireland, and in parts of Scotland.

In Ireland, especially, the loss of the usual food of the people has been the cause of severe sufferings, of disease, and of greatly increased mortality among the poorer classes. Outrages have become more frequent, chiefly directed against property: and the transit of provisions has been rendered unsafe in some parts of the country.

With a view to mitigate these evils, very large numbers of men have been employed and have received wages in pursuance of an act passed in the last session of Parliament. Some deviations from that act, which have been authorized by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, in order to promote more useful employment, will I trust, receive your sanction. Means have been taken to lessen the pressure of want in districts which are most remote from the ordinary sources of supply. Outrages have been repressed, as far as it was possible, by the military and police.

It is satisfactory to me to observe, that in many of the most distressed districts, the patience and resignation of the people have been most exemplary.

The deficiency of the harvest in France and Germany, and other parts of Europe, has added to the difficulty of obtaining adequate supplies of provisions.

It will be your duty to consider what further measures are required to alleviate the existing distress. I recommend to you to take into your serious consideration, whether by increasing for a limited period the facilities for importing corn from foreign countries, and by the admission of sugar more freely into breweries and distilleries, the supply of grain may be beneficially augmented."

The *European Times* says: "The whole of the available British navy will be occupied in bringing food from every quarter of the world where it can be had, to arrest the starvation of which Ireland is the scene."

Says the *London Herald*:—"A terrible disease, almost amounting to a plague, has broken out in some of the poor houses in Ireland. The deaths in the workhouse of Scariff, County Clare, from this cause average from four to twelve daily.

"The most serious apprehensions of famine are entertained, in consequence of the continued scarcity and high prices of corn and provisions in France. Serious riots have taken place in the provinces, among the poor, who attacked bread shops. Troops were called out.

The food riots begun at Rennes are spreading through the centre and west of France."

By the arrival of the steamship Cambria in Boston, Feb. 20th, we have further accounts of the progress of Famine. The *European Times* says:—

"The eyes of the nation are fixed on Ireland, where death is doing its work through the instrumentality of starvation. The details are horrible—sickening. The poor try to escape, and thousands find their way daily to England and Scotland. Liverpool and Glasgow are overrun with these poor creatures.

In the former town as many as 100,000 have received out-door relief in a week! The pressure of local taxation on the rate payers is likely to ruin many small housekeepers, and leave them without covering or shel-

ter. The pressure has become so overwhelming that Parliament has been appealed to, but has hitherto given no relief.

A determined effort is being made by the wealthy classes in England to assist the Irish by means of private subscriptions, and by abstaining as much as possible from any superfluous consumptions of food.

A Queen's letter has appeared, addressed to the ministers of the Church of England, requiring subscriptions to be made, and large sums have been thus collected in every place of worship, and by every form of faith in the kingdom. Unhappily the state of the highland poor is nearly as bad as that of the destitute Irish.

But the distress is not confined to Scotland and Ireland; there is much at present existing in England."

An Irish Relief Association has been formed at Dublin, whose officers embrace the chief men of the country. Says the Committee of the Association:—

"We need scarcely say, as the painful fact comes daily under the public eye, that the distress in some districts of their country is more alarming than ever; thousands, they believe, *are dying for want of sustenance*—disease is rapidly spreading—and the wasted forms and ghastly countenances of a large portion of the poor in those parts testify too truly what they are enduring."

"The misery in Flanders and other parts of Belgium is dreadful—as bad as it is in Ireland."

In parts of Italy disturbances have occurred among the people in consequence of the scarcity of food.

A letter from Hungary says:—"According to an official report, several thousand persons are in danger of dying from hunger before next spring. A demand for 50,000 florins was made to the aristocracy, but only 8,000 florins were accorded: and yet that aristocracy takes all the wealth of the country and keeps the people in slavery and misery."

A letter from Paris says of France:—"Altogether the present position of this country is really alarming. Its relations with all the great powers are unfriendly, not to say hostile: thousands are literally starving; food is un-

precedently dear; and there is an extraordinary scarcity of money."

"Accounts from Prussia are almost as distressing as those from Ireland. In the manufacturing districts particularly, the destitution is very alarming, and robberies are of frequent occurrence."

The following will show that this Nation is moved in behalf of the starving Irish.

In giving an account of a meeting at Washington, for the relief of Ireland, the *National Inteligencer*, says:—

In pursuance of the call, the largest meeting of citizens which was ever witnessed in Washington on any occasion, took place Feb. 10th, 1847—among them a large number of members of both Houses of Congress.

The Hon. GEORGE M. DALLAS, Vice President of the United States, presided at the meeting. Vice Presidents were appointed, representing every State and Territory in the Union.

A committee was appointed to prepare resolutions, and an address to the people of the United States, to explain and enforce the object of the meeting. On behalf of this committee, the Hon. DANIEL WEBSTER proposed the following preamble and resolutions:—

I. That the famine now existing in Ireland is so extensive, and is attended in many places with such appalling scenes of distress, as to present a proper case for national sympathy and charity

II. That the enlightened and improved spirit of the age, the dictates of humanity, and the authority of our holy religion, all suggest to the People of the United States that such unexampled calamity and suffering ought to overcome in their regard all considerations of distance, foreign birth, and residence, and difference of national character, and that it is enough that they are men, women and children, and as such belong to our own intellectual human nature.

III. That taking into consideration the necessity of prompt as well as general action, in order to produce a beneficial result, and that in this city are assembled at the present moment, many persons from all parts of the country, it has appeared fit that measures for a general national movement in favor of the suffering poor of Ireland should commence here—therefore,

Resolved, That this meeting recommmend to the People of the United States a general contribution in money or provisions, the proceeds to be forwarded, with all practicable dispatch, to the scene of suffering.

Resolved, That it be recommend to the inhabitants of all the cities, towns and villages in the United States immediately to appoint committees to receive contributions and make collections to be forwarded to the General Committees in New York and New Orleans; and that the amount of all contributions be transmitted by the said General Committees in flour, Indian corn or meal, and other provisions, as the said committees may deem expedient.

Resolved, **That the general committees be requested to make public, from time to time, the progress of the contributions, and the amounts transmitted to Ireland.**

The resolutions were unanimously adopted; when the following address was read to the meeting, and was also unanimously adopted:

Address to the Public from a Meeting in the City of Washington for the Relief of Ireland.

FELLOW-CITIZENS:—An awful crisis has arrived in Ireland. That which the failure of the crops in that country has for some time led us to apprehend is no longer a matter of prophecy or conjecture: it is terrible reality. The hand of Famine is already sweeping down ***hundreds*** in Ireland, and if not arrested threatens wider destruction. The worst is not yet come. ***Nine months*** must pass over that country before another crop can come to its relief. Ireland is but just entering upon her sufferings; only the first cries of her distress are as yet heard, unless Charity from without shall interpose fo. her rescue.

It is really a case for the sympathy of nations—for the sympathy of the ***whole Christian world.*** The calamity is the calamity of a nation. Private charity may relieve private needs; but from that gulf of horrors which famine is opening in Ireland, only national bounty can avail to bring deliverance. But from whence shall it come? ***Unparalleled distress*** in France, from ***flood*** and ***famine***, engages the attention of her people. The north of Europe is suffering extensively from the failure of the ***potato crop.*** In Scotland are destitute ***thousands*** to be provided for. England with her own immense burdens of taxation for the poor, is yet doing what she can; but still, with all that her Government and people can do, in her ill fated sister Island victims, by fifties in a week, are dropping into the jaws of famine. Let America come to her rescue.

Let a generous people, we say, come to the rescue! And rescue from what? Scarcely, amidst our abundance, can we conceive what it is: for it is ***starvation;*** it is pining to death with hunger, from which ***thousands*** in Ireland implore us to deliver them. It is a fate more horrible than any that ever came by flood or fire, by war or pestilence.

The accounts that are coming from Ireland confirm these representations, and, indeed, ***surpass all that can be said*** in any general representation. In the province of Connaught "there were ***forty-seven*** deaths by starvation in ***one*** week." In the towns of Skibbereen, Ballydehah, Scull, Castlehaven, Castletown, and other places, ten or fifteen funerals a day are common, and collections are made in the churches to provide coffins for the destitute. A letter from the county of Mayo, says: "The scenes described are as horrible as any related of beleaguered cities. Men are not unfrequently, it is stated, ***found dead in the ditches by the way-side.*** Some are so changed as not to be recognized by their friends; their looks wolfish and glaring as madmen: without clothes or food of any kind, they roam about in search of food till ***death seals their misery.***"

The spirit of the foregoing resolutions and address, is felt from Maine to Louisiana; and millions in money, provisions, &c., are being raised, and vessels chartered to send relief to perishing thousands across the Atlantic.

The following lines were taken from the *Baltimore Patriot*:—

THE STARVING IRISH.

Give us this day our daily bread:
Father! in mercy hear our prayer;
All hope of human aid has fled—
We sink in deep despair.

Our little ones scream out with pain,
And clamor to be fed:
Father! their cries to us are vain!—
Give us our daily bread.

O'er the gaunt infant at the breast,
The mother bows her head;
The fount is dry, in vain 'tis pressed;
Give us our daily bread.

Famine hath laid her withering hand
Upon each little head:
Oh Christ! is this a Christian land?—
Give us our daily bread.

Thy will be done: Father, receive
Our souls, when we are dead:
In Heaven we shall not pine and grieve—
Nor want our daily bread.

Says the poet:—

"Hear all nature's groans proclaming,
Nature's swift approaching doom!
War and *pestilence* and *famine;*
Signify the wrath to come!"

Wherefore, as I live, saith the Lord God, Surely, because thou hast defiled my santuary with all thy detestable things, and with all thine abominations, therefore will I also diminish thee; neither shall mine eye spare, neither will I have any pity.

A third part of thee *shall die with the pestilence, and with famine shall they be consumed in the midst of thee;* and a third part shall fall by the sword round about thee; and I will scatter a third part into all the winds; and I will draw out a sword after them.

Thus shall mine anger be accomplished and I will cause my fury to rest upon them, and I will be comforted: and they shall know that I the LORD have spoken it in my zeal, when I have accomplished my fury in them.—EZEKIEL.

And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues:

For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double, according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled, fill to her double.

How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her; for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.

Therefore shall her *plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine;* and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.—REVELATION.

And as he sat upon the Mount of Olives, his disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the *sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?*

And Jesus answered and said unto them, take heed that no man deceive you.

. . . . . .

For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be *famines and pestilences*, and earthquakes in divers places.—MATTHEW.

INCREASE OF CRIME.

Says the *Boston Recorder* of Sept. 1844:—"Within forty years, commitments for crime have increased in England from 5000 to 31,000, more than six fold—four times faster than the increase of population.

In Scotland, the increase of crime in the same period, has risen from 89 to 3,834—forty-three fold, and has advanced twenty-five times faster than the population.

That this prodigious increase has occurred during a period of almost unbroken peace, amid great improvements in criminal legislation and prison discipline too, and notwithstanding unparalled efforts to diffuse education and religion—creates a problem of no easy solution."

Says the *True Sun*:—"There have been in the Court of General and Special Sessions, from the month of January up to September 1845, 227 persons convicted of felonies and misdemeanors. 99 of whom were sentenced to the State Prison, the remainder to the Penetentiary and City Prison. In the Special Sessions, 1,216 convictions for petit larcencies, assaults and batteries, 639 of whom were sent to the Penetentiary, 302 to the City Prison, and the remainder fined, or sentence suspended. The total number of convictions, 1,448; total number of sentences, 1,163; more than double the usual number for the same period."

The *Christian Watchman* published in Boston, says: —"It is painful to learn that notwithstanding the unusual prosperity of our moral and quiet city the present season, crime is on the increase. We are informed that there have been three hundred more complaints before the Police Court this year (1845), up to July 1st, than during the same time last year, although there was an increase last year on the preceding. And it is a remarkable fact that an unusually large proportion of the crimes have been committed by the young. Many of the culprits are boys."

Says the *Christian Herald*:—"It is a fact that about in the same ratio that the cause of experimental religion declines, immorality and vice *increase*. This general truth, is painfully illustrated by the astonishing increase of crime in Boston. Tippling houses, Gambling rooms, Brothels, and Theatres, are on the increase, and crime in every form, especially among the young, is daily multiplying. This state of things has become so glaring and apparent, that the good people of Boston have taken the alarm, and a great meeting has been held in Faneuil Hall, and kept up by adjournment from week to week, to consider what shall be done to check the increase of crime in Boston. * * * Dea. Grant stated that crime and pauperism had increased upon the hands of the city authorities so fast, that several of the city Institutions are now full and can accommodate no more.

Father Taylor, the Seamen's preacher, remarked that he was well acquainted with Boston, had passed the most of his life as one of her citizens: he esteemed her the Queen of cities; the best city in the world; but Boston was degenerating—he never saw so much drunkenness in the streets, and never heard of so much crime among the people as now exists."

The *N. Y. Evangelist*, (May '46,) says:—"The quarterly report of the police department of New York exhibits a total of 5439 arrests during the quarter—4 for murder; 5 for robbery in the first degree; 644 for

disorderly conduct; 15 for escape from prison; 4 for perjury; 64 for grand larceny; 1819 for intoxication; 35 for passing counterfeit money; and 469 for other offences. During the same time there were 8986 lodgers accommodated at the station house, and 462 lost children picked up in the streets. What a picture of crime and degradation—60 criminal arrests a day, 100 vagabonds lodged every night, in a public station house, 5 or 6 lost children picked up in the streets every twenty-four hours, and a person committed for the crime of drunkenness every hour in the day! But this, probably, does not tell half the story of vice and its consequences in New-York!!"

Says the *Scientific American* of Oct. 31:—"It is admitted by all parties that crimes of the most outrageous and unprecedented character abound throughout this country, and probably throughout the world, to a degree wholly unparalleled. Crimes which cannot even be named in a respectable newspaper, appear to be of every day occurrence, in addition to multitudes of murders, arsons and robberies. And there appears not the least prospect of reform, or improvement of public morals, notwithstanding all the popular preaching of an approaching temporal millenium of universal righteousness, when every body will join the churches and live in harmony."

"It is estimated that there are annually in the United States 500,000 cases of assault and battery, 100,000 thefts, 800 suicides, and 800 murders."

The *N. Y. Herald* says:—"If statistical returns speak truth, morality in France is becoming every year less and less regarded. The number of condemnations for adultery is increasing every month; of separations between husbands and wives the number has arisen from 643 in 1837, to 1,108 in 1844. If we turn to criminal records, we shall find the same painful facts—crimes of all descriptions on the increase, especially in those of the blackest die—the increase being much greater than the proportionate increase of population. To what circumstances must these things be ascribed?"

The following is from the *Oberlin Evangelist* of Feb. 4, 1846. In an article headed, "*The Church sadly Degenerate;*" Prof. Finney, the editor says:

"There are few topics if any, more unwelcome to us than this. Every flash of light that breaks on our mind, revealing more and more the depth of this degeneracy is painfully agonizing. All tells of the guilt and shame of the Zion we love. All reveals the dishonor reflected upon the Savior whom we serve and adore.

Then we are also well aware that there are enemies to the cause of God who stand ready to catch the words of warning from our lips, and convert them in their own to words of scorn and triumph. A thousand times has the whisper fallen on our ear as we have felt constrained to write or speak of such grievances"—Tell it not in Gath, lest the daughters of the Phillistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph."

Yet the coviction remains immovably fixed, that it is better the truth should be known, that so the remedy may be applied, and that silence and darkness should favor and prolong the reign of death.

We have had the fact before our minds, that in general, the Protestant churches of our country as such, were either apathetic or hostile to nearly all the great moral reforms of the age. There are partial exceptions —yet not enough to render the fact otherwise than general."

We have also another correlated fact—the almost universal absence of revival influence in the Churches. The spiritual apathy is almost all-pervading, and is fearfully deep. So the religious press of the whole land testifies.

It comes to our ears and to our eyes also through the religious prints, that very extensively church members are becoming devotees of fashion, join hands with the ungodly in parties of pleasure, in dancing, in festivities, and that as no unnatural consequence, their sons and daughters forsake the houses of evangelical worship, and resort to hear a strain of preaching more consonant with their own tastes, their own manner of life,

and we may add, the manner of life pursued by their fathers and mothers. It is no wonder that a strain of preaching that makes no demand for a change of heart and life should attract the young, while their orthodox *parents livn a life which kills the vitality of evangelic truth.*

But we need not expand this painful subject. Suffice it that the evidence thickens and rolls heavily upon us to show that the *Churches generally* are becoming *sadly degenerate.* They have gone very far from the Lord, and He has withdrawn himself from them.

It becomes us to ask solemnly *Why is this?* What are the causes that have induced this state?

1. We answer, a very low standard of piety. The amount of piety requisite for admission to the Church —the amount requisite to sustain a fair Christain character afterwards, *is exceedingly small.* It does not compare at all favorably with the piety of the New Testament, drawn either from its precepts or its examples. What does the present almost universal standard include of self-denial, of deadness to the world, of agonizing, prevailing prayer, of successful and daily labor for the salvation of souls? How much does it demand in the way of thorough consecration of all we have, of all we can do, of our whole being and all we can make of it for God and his cause? Alas, it would seem that such things as these, had chiefly dropped out of the modern catalogue of the elements of Christian character, and the requisites for a Christian reputation. Or if they continue there in the words of our Church covenant, their spirit and meaning have evaporated, and left only the *hollow, sounding names of good things.* Alas! Alas!

2. Our language in speaking of a low standard of piety by no means reaches the full extent of the evil. The truth demands that we go farther, and say that the root of much evil, lies in the admission that a low standard of piety, can be a standard of any real piety at all. This sort of low piety is not *Bible piety.* The kind of consecration so prevalent in the real life of

multitudes in the Church, is not Bible consecration. The Bible gives not the least sanction to the idea, that a partial consecration of one's self to God can be real and acceptable. It draws no such delineation of real piety. It every where describes religion as being the love of God *with all the heart*—"following the Lord fully," "denying all ungodliness," "crucifying the flesh with its affections and lusts." It gives us no description of a *second rate* of piety which the Lord will accept as *better than none*, and under which, those who chiefly follow the world, rather than Christ, may find a hope and a refuge.

It is then fatal, both to the interests of elevated piety, and to the salvation of souls, to suppose that a low standard of piety, as the thing is commonly understood, can be any form of scriptural piety at all. The admission of this error, has *already slain its myriads of souls*, and has done infinite mischief, in *depressing the piety of the Church!*"

The wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand.—DANIEL.

And because *iniquity shall abound*, the love of many shall wax cold.—MATTHEW.

But evil men and seducers shall wax *worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.*

* * * * * * *

This know also that in the last days perilous times shall come:
For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,
Without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,
Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;
Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.—PAUL.

Behold, the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof.

And it shall be, as with the people, so with the priest; as with the servant, so with his master, as with the maid, so with her mistress; as with the buyer, so with the seller; as with the lender, so with the borrower; as with the taker of usury, so with the giver of usury to him.

The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly s
Lord hath spoken this word.

The earth mourneth, and fadeth away; the wor
and fadeth away; the haughty people of the eart

The earth also is defiled under the inhabitan
cause they have transgressed the laws, changed
broken the everlasting covenant.

Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth,
dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabita
are burned, and few men left.

* * * * * *

The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is c
the earth is moved exceedingly.

The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkar
removed like a cottage; and the transgression t
heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise agai

And it shall come to pass in that day, that
punish the host of the high ones that are on high,
of the earth upon the earth.

And they shall be gathered together as prisoner
in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, a
days shall they be visited.

Then the moon shall be confounded, and the
when the Lord of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and
salem, and before his ancients gloriously.

* * * * * * *

Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders: but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation and thy gates Praise.

The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory.

Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy *mourning shall be ended.*

Thy people also shall be all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified.

A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation; I THE LORD WILL HASTEN IT IN HIS TIME.—ISAIAH.